

## Prose on painting nets Halpern '11 Ward Prize

By Tim O'Grady

STAFF WRITER

The 30th annual presentation of the "Paul Ward '25 Prize In Writing" to the Class of 2011 was held on Oct. 3 in the New Library, honoring 40 members of the Class of 2011. The esteemed competition recognizes current sophomores who have produced outstanding essays during their first academic year at Middlebury.

Jessica Halper '11 won first prize for her essay entitled "A Romantic Dialogue: Frans Hals and Seventeenth Century Dutch Marriage Portraiture" that she wrote for her first-year seminar. Halper analyzed how Dutch painter Frans Hals revolutionized marital por-

traitures in the 17th century by emphasizing the intimacy and open friendship expressed between a Dutch husband and wife.

Halper's professor, Assistant Professor of History of Art & Architecture Eliza Garrison, was unable to attend the event; however, she sent an e-mail that was recited.

"While all of Jessica's papers... were great, this final assignment was truly outstanding. A real 'A'" wrote Garrison.

Zaheena Rasheed's '11 essay "Oblique I Am" and Moria Robinson's '11 piece "Last Hope: Fertility Preservation for Cancer Patients" won second place. Additionally,

SEE WINNING, PAGE 4



The Class of 2011's nominees for the Paul Ward '25 Prize in Writing congregate on the lower level of the library Oct. 3. Students from across last year's first-year class were recognized for writing in a variety of disciplines.

## Presidential scholar revives speech "ghosts"

By Jaime Fuller

NEWS EDITOR

Robert Schlesinger '94, deputy assistant managing editor of opinions at *U.S. News & World Report*, gave a lecture promoting his book, *White House Ghosts: Presidents and their Speechwriters*, as part of the Rohatyn Center International Studies Colloquium on Oct. 3.

Schlesinger has covered the beltway for many prestigious publications, including *The Boston Globe*, *The Hill*, *The Washington Monthly* and [www.Salon.com](http://www.Salon.com). He also teaches political journalism at the Boston University Washington Journalism Center. His former advisor, Director of the Rohatyn Center of International Affairs Allison Stanger, said during her introduction that one of his greatest accomplishments was

that "Schlesinger was the first of my former students to appear on Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show*."

Schlesinger began his lecture by laying out the significant differences between the speechwriting styles of the two bookend presidents of his narrative, Franklin D. Roosevelt and George W. Bush. For FDR, speechwriting was done after the day's work was done; the president would meet with his speechwriters over cocktails and the chief executive would bounce ideas off his staff in an organic, congenial fashion.

"The real work on speeches would commence after dinner. Roosevelt sat on a couch near the fireplace in the office, his feet propped up on a custom-made

SEE SCHLESINGER, PAGE 2

## Focus accrues on engagement during students' second years

By Lois Parshley

STAFF WRITER

The College's administration is working on a new program to provide direction for sophomores called the "Sophomore Year Experience." President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz hopes the new program will keep sophomores from feeling forgotten, as first-years have the First-Year Seminar, juniors

typically study abroad and seniors have independent projects and thesis work.

The program was sparked by national conversation about what should happen sophomore year in college, what Associate Dean of the College and Visiting Professor of Art History Katy Abbott, a leader in Middlebury's Sophomore Year Experience, calls "the lost year." She

said Middlebury's program was also sparked by the move to the 4/2 commons system.

"Sophomores needed an additional rationale for staying in their commons," she said, "so we decided it was imperative we reach out with this new program at the same time as the 4/2 switch this fall."

SEE SOPHOMORE, PAGE 2

## Improv troupe searches for niche

By Cloe Shasha

STAFF WRITER

Last winter, in the middle of the academic school year, a group of students joined together to practice improvisational theater. On Sept. 29, four of these students performed their first official show under the title of "Middlebrow."

Neil Baron '10, Adam Kritzer '11, Danny Metzger-Traber '11 and Andrew Powers '11.5 attracted a crowd of over 120 people in Dana Auditorium on Middlebrow's opening night, leading to a consensus among the members that it was a successful show.

"Rejection is how this story starts," said Kritzer. "We all tried out for *Otter Nonsense* and didn't make it. But we all knew we wanted to continue doing improv."

Powers explained that he and the other *Otter Nonsense* rejects wanted to pursue their interest in

improvisational theater without the intention of putting on a show.

This fall, however, the four students came back to Middlebury with experiences that inspired them to elevate their hobby to a production level.

"We didn't really know what to do last year," Kritzer said. "So this summer, Neil and I took classes. We both learned fundamental improv from the ground up and we integrated that into the group dynamic this year."

For their first show, the four students decided to pick from their repertoire of improvisational games to work with.

"All of the ones we played during the show are very well-established improv games," said Baron. "So we looked for games that let us demonstrate our improv abil-



Angela Evancie, Photo Editor

### KAPPA DELTA WRECK

Parked in front of Kappa Delta Rho's (KDR) house, a defenseless vehicle undergoes some major body work at the hands of Steve Heck '09. The Oct. 2 car bash helped inaugurate the social house's rush season.

**Exporting Expertise**  
Faculty experts share their knowledge on the national stage, page 12.



**Unsafe at any State**  
Ralph Nader questions state leadership while speaking at UVM, page 6.

**Afghan Epic**  
Khaleid Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* became a one-man-show, page 16.



## college shorts

by Stephanie Joyce, Staff Writer

### Unconventional exhibit it raises awareness

Employing an unconventional technique to raise awareness about sexual assault, students at the University of Northern Colorado hung t-shirts decorated with stories and artwork from stair railings around campus this week.

Each shirt depicted the experience of a sexual assault survivor or friend of a survivor. Although the Clothesline Project has been in existence for almost 20 years, advocates maintain that it continues to be an important part of the healing process for students affected by sexual assault.

The event is also intended to encourage victims of unreported sexual assault to come forward and begin healing. Victoria Wilson '11 encouraged participation in the event "because it is a great way to artistically express yourself while supporting a good cause."

—The Mirror

### Wachovia cuts off colleges' bank accounts

Almost 1,000 colleges with investments in Wachovia Bank's Short Term Fund found their ability to make withdrawals curbed this week when fund trustees decided to terminate the fund and partially freeze withdrawals.

Initially, Wachovia told investors that they could only withdraw 10 percent of their assets, but later increased that figure to 37 percent. The freeze is part of a strategy designed to safeguard against a run on money that would require fund managers to sell assets at a loss.

Although the freeze has no dire consequences for most colleges, it has forced some to reanalyze their budgets. Aubrey Streit, a spokesperson for Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan., said that while Bethany was not panicking, "We're just re-evaluating our plan for how we will work with the cash flow over the course of the next academic year."

—CNN Money

### Politicos tailor campus activism to partisanship

On campuses nationwide, student organizations on both sides of the aisle are campaigning in force for their preferred presidential candidate. On the other hand, the question "Are you registered to vote?" is primarily coming from Democratic student organizations.

Dan Reilly, an active member of the College Republicans at Providence College, cites the practical reason that since college students tend to be liberal, "getting people to register doesn't help our party."

In key swing states like Pennsylvania and Colorado, College Democrats are urging students to register to vote on campus rather than in their home states.

At the University of Colorado at Boulder, College Democrats president Jesse Jensen emphasized that, "We make sure that students understand how valuable their vote will be in Colorado in comparison to states whose races are all but locked up, [but] the one point we stress is that it's a personal choice." Regardless of whom they vote for, youth participation is expected to be up significantly in this election.

—Uwire

## Schlesinger contrasts speech styles

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stool. He often pulled from his pocket old scraps of paper where he had written down ideas, phrases, specific points to make in a speech. The president would retire by 11 p.m., the speechwriters then retired to the cabinet room to finish the draft.

This is contrasted with the institutionalized speechwriting of FDR's successors, including the current administration.

"Speech sessions no longer took place over cocktails in the Oval Office," he said. "Instead, if you were a speechwriter working on a speech the president was going to deliver that day, you were expected to be at your desk at 7 a.m. the morning of the speech."

For Schlesinger, presidential speechwriting is a family affair; his father Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. was a noted presidential historian and speechwriter for John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy. Schlesinger noted that Kennedy was one of the best modern presidential rhetoricians because he "understood that the context had to be correct for presidential rhetoric to have an effect. Schlesinger also considered the partnership of JFK and his speechwriter Ted Sorenson the "model of speechwriter collaboration."

He also informed the audience that JFK's

famous "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech was mostly ad-libbed. Schlesinger admitted that many presidents were gifted orators in their own right, and often ad-libbed the sound bites attributed to their speechwriters.

FDR often complained to his secretary, "They won't let me say anything of my own in my own speech!" FDR would then acquiesce to his speechwriters' recommendations, only to ad-lib the lines he had crafted back in when he gave the speech.

Bill Clinton was also gifted at improvising speeches. Schlesinger noted his musical background, saying, "the job of speechwriters was to establish a main theme and allow Clinton to riff."

Schlesinger also explained how the fragmentation of the presidency had led to arguments concerning the president's words. This is most visible in the Reagan presidency, where his conservative speechwriters were constantly at odds with more moderate policy makers.

"We considered ourselves like the musketeers, guarding the royal jewels," Schlesinger said, quoting Reagan speechwriter Dana Rohrabacher.

The abrasive relationship between the speechwriters and other less conservative members of the Reagan administration led to

conflicts over such famous lines as "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall" and "Win one for the Gipper." This tension was largest during the Reagan and H.W. Bush administrations, but has been alleviated somewhat since then. Speechwriting has once again become a more collaborative process, but it still is nothing like the days before FDR transformed it into an integral, institutionalized part of the presidency.

Schlesinger ended his lecture by highlighting the rhetorical strengths as deficiencies of the current presidential candidates.

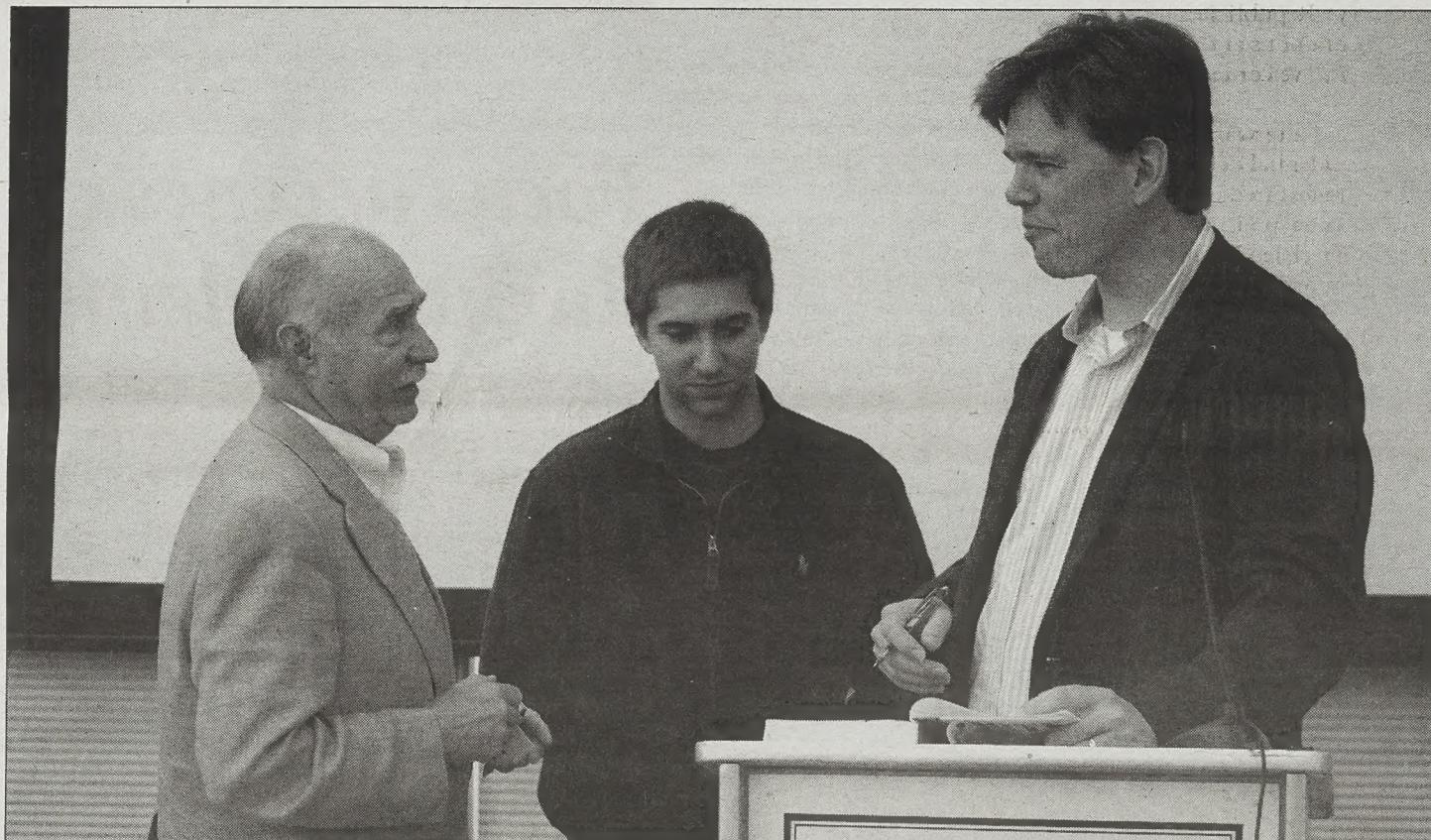
"Obama gets the importance of public communication—it's his greatest strength," he said. "We'll have to see how skillfully he'll be able to use the rest of his presidential power."

One thing Schlesinger doesn't understand is how McCain's long relationship with his speechwriter hasn't translated to effective primary of general election rhetoric from the Republican candidate's camp.

"They seem to have an inability to find a style that suits him, lets him be effective," he said.

Schlesinger then ended his remarks, holding himself to the cardinal rule of speechmaking.

"I'm done now, I've already broken the presidential speech rule of brevity," he said.



Grace Duggan

Robert Schlesinger '94 (right) spoke with students and faculty after his lecture Oct. 3 at the Robert A. Jones '59 house. Schlesinger regaled attendees with anecdotes and analysis of the speaking styles of various presidents through American history.

## Sophomore experience starts small

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The time limits on creating this program led the College to borrow the structure of a similar sophomore program in place at Colgate University. The basics of the College's Sophomore Year Experience include three major components.

The first one is the introduction of "Commons Conversations," informal meetings of faculty and students over dessert and coffee. The themes of these meetings are specifically determined by the Commons Heads, but the unifying goal is to give students a sense of what drives faculty members and what it actually means to be involved in specific fields.

The second is the utilization of existing Career Services Office (CSO) programs, as well as introducing new "Do What You Are" workshops, delivered by CSO's peer career advisors in each Commons starting this winter term.

"These optional workshops will support

the goal of students using their sophomore years to learn more about their preferences, interests, skills and values," said Associate Director of CSO Susan Walker.

The existing CSO programs, including externship opportunities over fall and February breaks, also strive to give students a chance to connect their intellectual lives and extracurricular pursuits, as well as engage various

**Sophomores needed an additional rationale for staying in their commons, so we decided it was imperative to reach out with this ... program.**

—Katy Abbott

support networks on and off campus.

Finally, there will be informal, commons-based conversations focused on educating sophomores on the experience of traveling abroad. These conversations will allow returning seniors to talk about their experienc-

es abroad, including what sparked their interests and what challenges they encountered abroad and upon returning to Middlebury.

Abbott said this year's Sophomore Year Experience is a pilot program, so it is still very flexible and open to change and input from students. She has been frustrated with some students' feelings that this program is just another "top-down approach."

Abbott said that could not be farther from the truth, as the program was developed with extensive student input. Students with ideas for the program should speak with their Commons Heads, and feedback from students will continue to be taken very seriously.

This year's Sophomore Year Experience has been intentionally kept very small, as no one wants to tax students' time or add any other required elements to busy schedules.

Rather, the Sophomore Year Experience is meant to provide resources to help students who are interested develop their sense of who they are, what they are interested in and what to do to get to where they want to be.



## FALL FA-A-A-A-A-A-AMILY WEEKEND

Visitors to Battell Beach Oct. 4 found some unfamiliar — and elegantly tufted — faces there for the amusement of students' parents and siblings. The days activities also included a pumpkin tumble, pumpkin carving and lots of local food and drink to sample.

Rodrigo Seira

overseas  
briefing

The foreign language of  
British-English

by H. Kay Merriman

Whilst studying Shakespeare and Journalism at "the most creative college in the U.K." this semester, I have successfully resigned my Middlebury prepster status for that of a hipster, developed a nasty second-hand smokers' cough, watched multiple British professors mock Sarah Palin during lecture and picked up a few foreign phrases that I would love to hear used in the States.

A brief guide to London student slang that I hope to hear in Freeman (Is that where all the Proctor kids have gone?) when I return:

\* "You alright?" — Their equivalent to our "how are you?" still catches me off-guard every time. It is a question of self, really. Am I alright? Do I look like I'm alright?

\* "Knackered" — This adjective goes a step beyond "tired," but doesn't sound as whiny as "exhausted." Use it as a euphemism for "hungover" and you will still sound sophisticated.

\* "I couldn't be bothered" — As a catch-all reason for why something was not completed, the phrase encompasses everything from "I was too knackered" to "I just didn't feel like it." My favorite is when it is used to describe someone else, as in: "My flatmate said she would clean the kitchen, but she couldn't be bothered." The statement makes it seem as though British students lead terribly important lives.

\* "Fit" — For a solid week, I thought that my new friends were only attracted to athletic people. Then, I realized that this term can be employed to describe the attractiveness of everyone from rugby players to art students without using the two words forever tainted by Paris Hilton: "That's hot."

\* "Proper" — It somehow can characterize anything from an outfit to a physical or mental state, as in "That guy at the club last night was proper fit." Use it in exchange for "legit" and sound more, well, proper.

\* "Taking the Piss" — Dry sarcasm, the British sense of humor at its finest, is often diminished to this phrase. Act offended because of a comment and a good-hearted Brit will respond, "Oh, I'm just taking the piss out of you." Unfortunately, this phrase can prove quite confusing when you are looking for someone and they actually have gone to "the loo."

## Film records generation's first vote

By Patrick D'Arcy

STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 2, the documentary "18 in '08" offered both a historic and contemporary look at the youth vote in America to a crowd of young voters. The event, sponsored by Middlebury Republicans and Democrats, Brainerd Commons and the Alliance for Civic Engagement, welcomed the film's director David Burstein for the screening in Dana Auditorium, and afterwards for a reception and the vice presidential debate.

The film featured interviews with a number of influential politicians such as John Kerry, Chuck Hagel, Jeb Bush and Joe Lieberman, popular culture figures such as MTV's Gideon Yago and Richard Dreyfuss as well as a diverse collection of students. The documentary explores the youth vote, with a nonpartisan message to "overturn traditional under representation in election campaigns, get involved in the political process and vote."

"In order to have political power, we need to show that we're reliable voters," Burstein said to the crowd after the screening. "I think what we're about to see is a generational shift. I got really excited because there's so much potential [for youth voters] to make a meaningful impact on the political process."

Burstein, 19, a student at Haverford College, said he conceived the film the night after the 2004 election, when he was just 16 years old. He grabbed a camera and started to film. The film was edited in five weeks and released in 2007.

"I've seen the power film has to get a message across," Burstein said. "[The film] had to be created by young people, specifically for young people."

Burstein stressed, however, that while the film's audience was without a doubt the 17-24 year old American demographic, "it was important that we were respecting young voters." So while the film certainly has moments of humor, the film chooses to present its audience with facts and opinions about the youth vote through interviews, rather than through lots of celebrity endorsements or over-the-top humor—a tact, Burstein said, that's often employed in efforts to raise political awareness in young voters.

What began as simply a film has evolved into a nationwide campaign to register youth voters, and shake young voters of a feeling of apathy toward the political process. The "18 in '08" movement has registered 23,000 voters to date, and there was an opportunity for Middlebury students to register to vote after the screening, which was well received.

"The fact that [Burstein] spent his time doing [the documentary] is indicative of what our generation can do," George Altshuler '10.5, co-president of Middlebury Democrats, said. "I hope the message spreads."

Rachel Pagant '11, member of the Middlebury Republicans, said, "Voting is one of the most important points of being a citizen.... [The film] addresses a crucial point in young voters' lives."

**In order to have political power, we need to show that we're reliable voters. I think what we're about to see is a generational shift ... there's so much potential [for youth voters] to make a difference.**

— David Burstein, documentarian



Jessica Appelson

David Burstein's recent documentary, which screened Oct. 2 in Dana Auditorium, examined the 18-year-old cohort for whom the 2008 cycle will be their first election.

## public safety log

September 29 - October 5, 2008

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
9/29/2008	6:55 p.m.	Theft	Microphone	Service Building	Unfounded
9/23/2008	unknown	Theft	Dorm	Palmer	No Suspects
10/1/2008	4:45 p.m.	Theft	Laptop	T Lot	No Suspects
10/1/2008	1:00 p.m.	Theft	Money	Ross Dining Hall	No Suspects
10/1/2008	11:00 a.m.	Theft	Money	Not Specified	No Suspects
10/2/2008	11:15 p.m.	Drug Violation	Paraphenalia: Bong	Allen Hall	Referred to Commons Dean
10/4/2008	2:55 a.m.	Vandalism	Wall Lamp	Ross Tower	No Suspects
10/4/2008	12:32 p.m.	Theft	Camera	Ross Dining Hall	No Suspects
10/5/2008	1:10 a.m.	Vandalism	Lights	Gifford	No Suspects
10/5/2008	1:55 a.m.	Vandalism	Wall Lights	Lang	No Suspects

The Department of Public Safety reported giving 10 alcohol citations between September 29 and October 5.

by Miles Abdilla and  
Ian Trombulak, Staff Writers

### Professors ease students' financial fears

In response to a bombardment of questions from both students and faculty members regarding the state of the U.S. economy, Professors of Economics David Colander, Peter Matthews, Scott Pardee and Bob Prasch held a discussion panel on Oct. 1 at Dana Auditorium. Aptly titled "The Financial Crisis" the professors hoped to answer the simple question: what is going on with the economy?

"What got us into this [financial crisis] is greed," said Pardee. He added that Americans, in buying new homes, relied on mortgage brokers that offered subprime loans to consumers who were not necessarily able to pay for it. What ensued from this risk were scams and fraud. "Finally, the market collapsed," Pardee continued, "and as prices began to fall, people didn't want to buy. This is greed."

With no credit and no capital and with failing firms such as Wachovia, what can be done? Matthews suggested the Paulson plan—giving \$700 billion for U.S. Secretary of Treasury Henry Paulson to spend. "If we're going to do socialism," said Matthews, "we should do it right."

Associate Professor Prasch shifted the discussion to areas that college students can relate to. "Students and poor folks tend to have unmet needs," said Prasch, "[Students] are reliable spenders." Money given to students will no doubt be spent. This spending will go to the infrastructure and, as Matthews stated, "what we ought to get is wholesale infrastructure investment. [A] crumbling infrastructure is an impediment to long run growth."

### Carbon Neutrality 101 for Parents' Weekend

Professor of Physics and Environmental Science Rich Wolfson gave a lecture for parents and students on Oct. 3 in the Axinn Center regarding climate change in the world and the College's own goal to be carbon neutral by 2016.

Wolfson, who describes himself not as an "environmental activist, but really just a scientist," spent the first half of the talk explaining how we know we're experiencing a significant climate change, why it's happening and what can be done to counteract it. He indicated weather patterns and certain biological indicators, including coral reef bleaching and the increase in the growing season, as signs that global climate change "is occurring in a very real way."

The talk then moved to what the College is doing to reduce its own carbon footprint.

"Vermont doesn't release much carbon from electrical sources," Wolfson commented, belaying many peoples' assumptions that wind turbines and solar panels may be enough to counteract a large chunk of emissions. Instead, Wolfson noted, "we are planning to reduce by a million gallons the amount of #6 oil used on this campus." This plan comes in the form of the \$12 million Biomass Gasifier & Boiler currently set to open in January of this year, which would cut in half the largest contributor to carbon emissions on campus.

"Our red buildings are a huge disaster right now," continued Wolfson, referring to buildings like Munroe Hall, which are out of date and should, he says, be made more environmentally friendly through increased insulation.

The lecture drew a full crowd of students and parents, including Ellen Coccama '75, who is "very interested in energy conservation" and "very intrigued by the idea that the College is trying to go carbon neutral." The engaged crowd seemed to share Coccama's view of Wolfson as a "great lecturer," and questions continued following the conclusion of the lecture of roughly 10-20 minutes.

# Winning paper "rises to the top"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Alice Bennet '11, Erik Brooks '11, Xian Chiang-Waren '11, Emma Lennon '11 and Allison Wells '11 received "honorable mention" recognition for their works.

The selection process for the Ward Prize begins with faculty members keeping an eye out for outstanding first-year writers during the year and then submitting their best papers to Kathleen Skubikowski, Director of Writing. Towards the end of the summer, Skubikowski forms an interdisciplinary group of faculty members to judge the submitted works. The panel this year was comprised of author and Lecturer in English and American Literatures David Bain and Associate Professor of Philosophy Martha Woodruff.

The judges must read every submitted paper independently and afterwards rank their top ten works. After some discussion amongst the judges, they arrive at a consensus and designate selected works for recognition.

"Often one paper just rises to the top," said Skubikowski.

One of the most distinguishing aspects about this writing award is that it is not restricted to English essays. In fact, professors are able to submit essays with a wide range of topics. This year's nominated pieces included personal narratives, critical arguments, research papers and lab reports.

"We've committed ourselves to the idea of placing writing as the center of a liberal arts education" said Skubikowski.

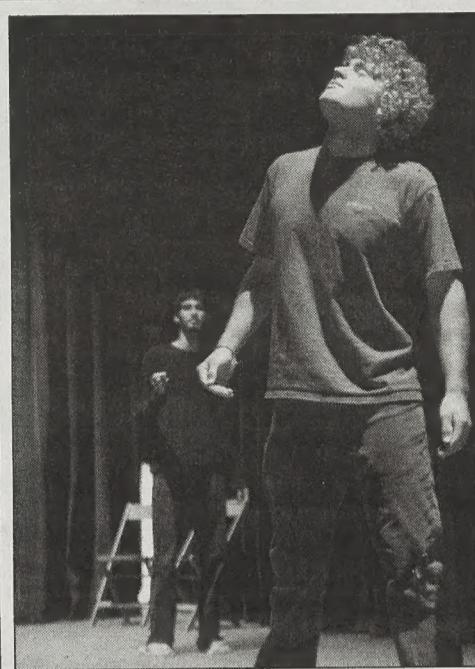
Every student nominated for the Ward

Prize is also invited to train as a peer-writing tutor for the following year. Since a plethora of academically diverse works are nominated, tutors are well-versed in various disciplines and can assist students with any type of paper.

Dorothy Ward '25, who wanted to commemorate her husband's successful career, established the Paul W. Ward '25 Memorial Prize

in 1978. Mr. Ward was a journalist and diplomatic reporter, winning the Pulitzer Prize and the French Legion of Honor.

"It was the bequest of the family [to honor first-years]. This is the only award that recognizes the intellectual dimension and writing capabilities of first-year students," said Skubikowski.



Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor

Andrew Powers '11 acts out having only the sense of smell at Middlebrow's first show Sept. 30. The group banded together after its members came up just short during auditions for the campus' Otter Nonsense Players.

### Group aims to teach too

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ity — and for ones that would entertain the audience."

The group is excited to expand its membership. Middlebrow held auditions shortly after their first show and callbacks on Oct. 5.

According to Powers, the group wants to aim towards putting on three to four shows per semester.

"We do it for the girls," Powers said.

But these four students are not only aiming towards a performance role on campus. Because they all know what it's like to be rejected from a group, they want anybody to be able to take part in their process. They want to include other students in some of their rehearsals — any students who are interested in improvisation.

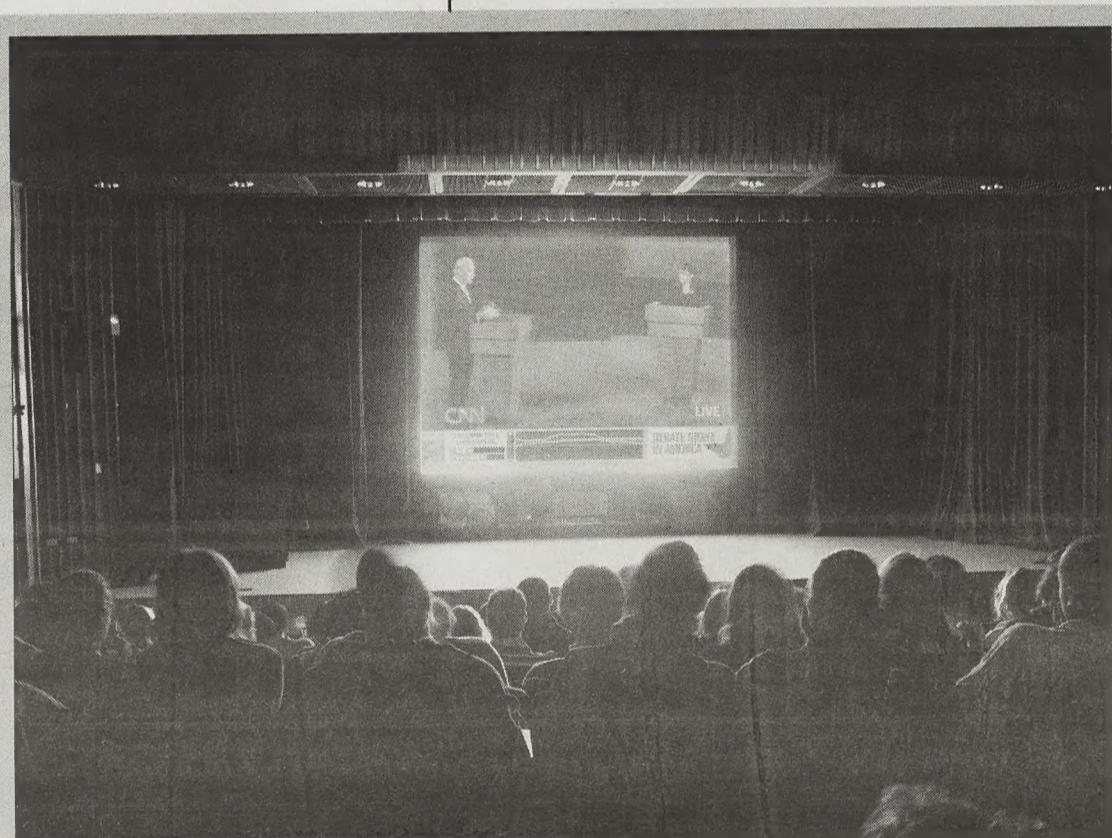
"I think a nice way for Middlebrow to evolve would be to teach improv comedy around the campus," Metzger-Traber said. "We want to elevate its accessibility."

Starting on the Saturday after fall break, Middlebrow will hold open rehearsals in Coltrane Lounge.

The current members of Middlebrow wrote a constitution for their group and are on their way to becoming a recognized Middlebury College club.

"It will be good to have two improv groups on campus," Powers said. "More people will have an option to explore that type of acting."

Eventually Middlebrow plans on participating in workshops with improvisational actors in other parts of the northeast. The group wants to get exposure to as many forms of improvisation as possible."



Andrew Ngeow, Photo Editor

### THRONG ASSEMBLES TO SEE THOSE WHO COULD BE "A HEARTBEAT AWAY" ...

The images of Vice Presidential candidates Joe Biden and Sarah Palin play on the silver screen of Dana Auditorium Oct. 2, when the two traded quips in their only debate. Students packed in to watch them square off.

### SGA Beat— Bumps in the road

Although Student Government Association (SGA) President Bobby Joe Smith has proved to be an efficient executive thus far, this week the SGA hit its first speed bump of the semester. Whereas the previous week's debate was orderly, and that meeting's movement from topic to topic organically but timely, this week witnessed the presentation of two intractable issues that brought the SGA senate to a standstill and required the calling of an emergency session to be held this Tuesday.

As previously announced, new Library Information Services Dean Mike Roy sat in on the meeting. Roy, though new to the school, wishes to establish an LIS committee much like the successful dining services committee. Though Roy wished to touch on several topics, ranging from wi-fi — which may soon be available for Ross and Atwater Commons — to the printer situation on campus, the SGA senate found the committee question to be a difficult one. At issue were Smith and Roy's requests that the committee be a function of the SGA, associated with its special services committee and mentioned in the constitution.

Many senators adamantly disagreed. Arguing that the SGA need not take on any more obligations than it already has, these senators engaged in a protracted debate that failed to follow procedure or heed the direction of speaker of the senate Vrutika Mody. When the meeting passed the hour mark, the senators took up Mody's suggestion to table the discussion until a piece of legislation could be presented.

The next item that the senate deliberated was a proposal by Molley Kaiyoorawongs '09, to rehabilitate a clause in the student handbook that would allow the college to fine students \$35 for every plate found in their possession outside the dining hall. The \$49,000 a year that dining services loses in dishware is considerable, and an issue that requires urgent attention. However, a majority felt that fining students neither fell within their purview as legislators nor would solve the problem.

Because of the prolonged debate, no legislation was brought before the senate, but they held a meeting on Oct. 7 to continue deliberating the points raised on Sunday.

—Mario Ariza, Staff Writer

**To Bail**

FDIC insurance on savings deposit increase

SEC change to mark-to-value accounting practice

Obama push for bankruptcy protection and recoup fund

Ease credit crunch, get liquidity flowing to banks

**Not to Bail**

No recoup fund. No bankruptcy protection.

Main St. paying for Wall St. blunders?

Senate inclusion of unnecessary tax provisions

Too much pork ... Will this bailout even work?

# Welch Bids on Bailout

By Andrea Glaessner  
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

Vermont Congressman Peter Welch joined 263 of his fellow House representatives Oct. 3 in approving the \$700 billion bailout package designed to rescue ailing credit markets. Although the House rejected the bill on Oct. 1, 58 representatives, including Welch, changed their votes on Friday to approve what may become the most expensive government intervention in history.

Hours before the vote, Welch hosted a phone conference to discuss the vote with members of Vermont's press. Despite having come around to vote in favor of the bailout, Welch still expressed only lukewarm enthusiasm for the bill.

"As flawed as this bill is, it's a far superior alternative to doing nothing," said Welch. "It's this bill or no bill, and no bill is an absolute catastrophe."

Citing the negative impact of the credit crunch on Vermont businesses, pension funds, and retirement savings, Welch felt the urgency to pass the bailout immediately in order to bring much needed stability to the markets.

"Are we going to play Russian roulette on the jobs of Americans by voting no?" Welch mused during the phone conference. "Because I do not want to roll the dice and jeopardize the jobs, savings, retirements of people in Vermont."

Over the course of two weeks, the bailout bill swelled in volume from the legendary three-page initial Treasury proposal to the 110-page bill rejected on Oct. 1 to the daunting 450 page closer stuffed to the brim with pork-barrel legislation from hurricane aid to alternative energy funding to unemployment insurance. One reporter asked Welch how he felt about the bill's transformation from "a blank check" to "a Christmas tree." Welch responded, "My personal preference is that we keep bills spare and clean. The Senate added tax provisions that frankly I wish they hadn't, but they also added a few things that help."

Acknowledging a "dramatic improvement" from the three-page Paulson proposal to the Oct. 1 bill, Welch was pleased with the inclusion of oversight, executive pay crackdown, restrictions on the "golden parachute" retirement plans for executives, and had reference to the creation of a stability fund. But the improvements failed to clinch Welch's support during the House's initial Oct. 1 vote — Welch was one of the 228 representatives who rejected the Oct. 1 bill.

Ultimately, it was three developments that tipped the balance for Welch to vote in favor of the bill on Friday: raising the ceiling on federal insurance for bank deposits, a change in SEC accounting practices, and a phone call from presidential hopeful Barack Obama.

Many lawmakers, including Welch, cited the Senate's addition of a provision increasing the amount of savings insured by the Federal government to \$250,000 per account, from \$100,000 as a motivating factor for switching their vote to support the bailout. Alan R. Holmes Professor of Monetary Economics Scott Pardee echoed this sentiment, calling the FDIC provision "one of the brilliant masterworks of this legislation." According to Pardee, the provision will enable banks to start lending earlier on, and will "reduce the possibility that people will start lining up at the banks to pull their money out."

On Wednesday, the SEC announced a change in accounting practices from the "mark-to-value" to "mark-to-market" system. During the phone conference, Welch was quick to assert his personal role in encouraging this development. In a statement released after the conference, Welch reiterated this point.

"The Securities and Exchange Commission, acting on a request by me and several colleagues, revised misguided accounting rules that are putting unnecessary pressure on lending institutions and leading to further instability in the financial industry." According to Welch, the SEC's new accounting practices will lead to a more balanced appraisal of property in housing

markets.

Finally, in what came off as an obvious plug for the Democratic presidential candidate, Welch divulged that a phone conversation with Obama hardened his support for the bill. Welch explained that he received a call from Obama, who gave him "personal assurance" that as the next president he would fight for a recoupment fund to make certain that the cost of this program would be borne by the financial services community, and not by American taxpayers. Obama also mentioned his support for bankruptcy protection for mortgagees.

In the days leading up to the House's second vote, Vermonters flooded Welch's phone lines and mailbox with concerned comments about the bill and the financial crisis.

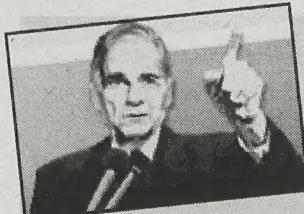
"I've been hearing from Vermonters who are rightly furious," Welch alleged, "and I share their fury." Welch went on to explain that Vermont has the second lowest foreclosure rate in country. "Vermonters did not cause this problem; they are caught in the undertow of irresponsible financial institutions on Wall Street."

Reiterating Vermont's relatively minor role in the subprime mortgage drama, Pardee explained that Vermont has been insulated from a lot of the backlash from the mortgage crisis. As indicated by Pardee, the most egregious acts of mortgage abuse tended to stem from housing bubbles in Florida and California.

Still, Welch assured reporters that Vermonters were "suffering" from the financial crisis. During the phone conference, Welch described Vermonters as "frustrated" and "fearful". When confronted about hard evidence of the impact on Vermonters, Welch responded that the evidence about the credit crunch "is compelling." "There's evidence from treasury — monthly treasury rates plunged to zero because banks are borrowing from the Fed at record rates," said Welch.

Others insist it is unclear how much the financial crisis has

SEE WELCH WEIGHS IN, PAGE 7

**"Imagine Democracy"**

Independent Presidential candidate Ralph Nader speaks at UVM, page 6.

**Candidate Catfight**

The incumbent and the Democrat continue to battle it out for Governor's seat, page 7.

**Flavors du Provence**

Our very own Kaity Potak writes up her take on *Café Provence* in Brandon, page 7.



# Nader revs up fans at UVM campaign rally

By Jahl Khalil & Rodrigo Seira  
STAFF WRITERS

Independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader addressed a crowd of about 2,000 people at a campaign stump at the University of Vermont (UVM) Oct. 5, touching on local Vermont politics, the state of American democracy, civic engagement and the current financial crisis.

After an introduction by Progressive Party congressional candidate Thomas Hermann and local political organizers of the Vermont impeachment movement of President Bush, Nader emphasized the need for multi-party politics.

"The least worst is no longer good enough to the American people," he said. Further deplored the idea of voting for Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain on the basis of pragmatism, Nader told those in attendance, "the minute you give them [the two main parties] your least-worst vote, you lose your bargaining power." Harping on the "broken" electoral system, Nader claimed the Electoral College is a system that allows the two major parties to write off any voter in a safe state as an unattainable vote.

During his speech Nader criticized Vermont's congressional delegation, calling the leadership of Senator Bernie Sanders into question. Nader also denounced Senator Patrick Leahy and Representative Peter Welch for voting in favor of Congress' \$700 billion bailout bill, going so far as to suggest that Vermonters "summon Senator Leahy so he can explain himself." Nader, calling the bailout a "golden lifeboat" for the rich, attacked the idea of bailing out corporations on a constitutional basis saying, "The word corporation does not exist in our constitution."

Nader's platform consists mostly of anti-corporate rhetoric, containing 16 solutions to "shift the power" from corporations to the citizenry. Nader argued that his solutions were all wanted by the American people, and were being held back by corporate interests. Among those solutions were single-payer universal healthcare, accountability of congressional and other elected officials, tax reform, repealing the Patriot Act and clean energy reform.

After discussing national issues at length, Nader turned to state politics. He endorsed independent gubernatorial candi-

date Anthony Polina and spoke out against the re-licensing of Vermont Yankee — the nuclear power plant in Vernon. Nader also praised the New England style of local governance, calling it a "trendsetter," for its tendency "to assert the great concept of citizenship, which is really the fundamental firmament of our democratic society."

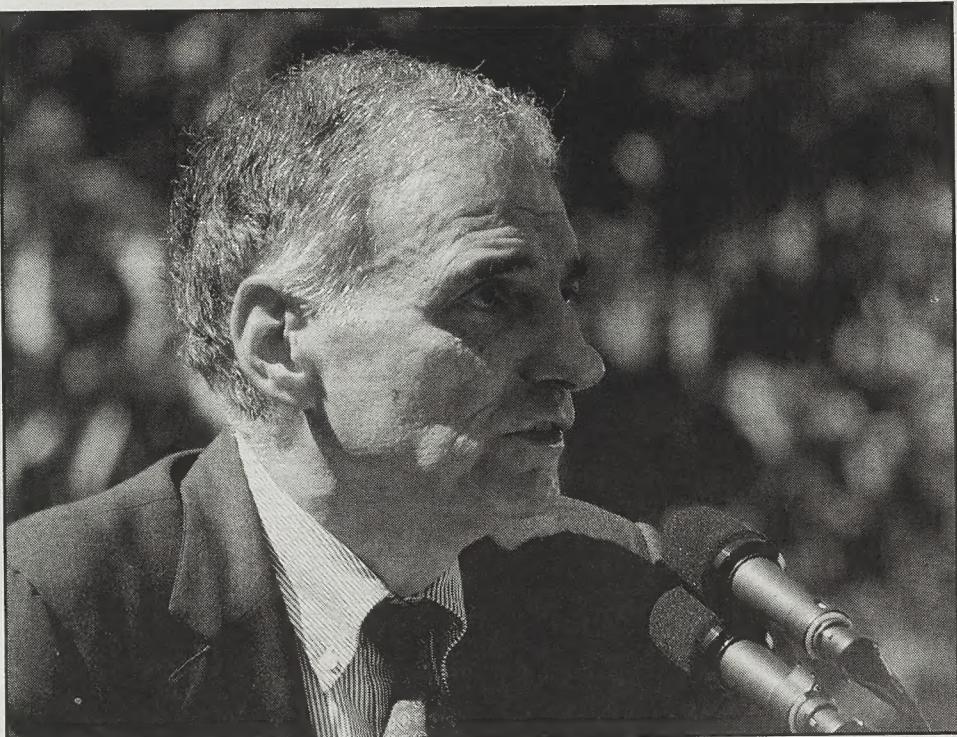
The majority of the speech centered on an appeal for civic engagement among youth, distinguishing between personal and civic freedom, and calling for a 2,000-person watchdog group in the congressional district. Nader framed the issue by polling the students in attendance that had never engaged in the civic arena and compared the issue to those who contribute to corporations through the commercial arena, discussing the implications of participation in each. Furthering his message of civic engagement, Nader addressed the young members of the audience directly.

"It's your twenties when you decide the vector of your life's work, the kind of mark you're going to make on the world, on a nation, on your state, on your community, and on your neighborhood. Don't waste it."

He urged the young voters in the crowd to think independently and push for change.

"You're the ones who have the greatest stake in your country," he said. "When people in any society don't turn onto politics, politics turns on them." Nader also called for students to raise their expectations of their politicians, and change their style of learning as to enhance the civic arena. Nader spoke of an experience of his youth, when after school his father asked him, "Did you learn how to *believe* or did you learn how to *think*?"

Ralph Nader is running for President for the fourth time. He rose to national prominence as a consumer advocate, producing the 1965 publication of "Unsafe at Any Speed" which re-



Courtesy

Nader challenged young voters' engagement in civil society during Sunday's campaign rally.

vealed the unsafe conditions of many American vehicles, helping pave the way for the enforcement of mandatory seatbelts and airbags. Nader has been a high-profile activist ever since, playing a significant role in the environmental movement and holding a key position in the anti-nuclear power movement of the 1970's and 1980's. In addition, Nader was a vital part of the Freedom of Information Act.

Nader's contributions as an activist have been overshadowed in recent years by the fallout from his controversial bid for president as the Green Party candidate in the 2000 election. Many Democrats resented Nader and accused him of being the candidate that cost Al Gore the 2000 presidential election.

When announcing his candidacy this February on NBC's Meet the Press, Nader contested this old accusation saying, "Twenty-five percent of my vote, according to a Democratic pollster, exit poll, would have gone to Bush. Thirty-nine percent would have gone to Gore and the rest would have stayed home. Every major third party in Florida got more votes than the 537 vote gap." Nader said he was not concerned that his third party status may again factor into this November's election. He does not believe that his presence will truly alter the outcome of the tight presidential race between Senator Barack Obama and Senator John McCain, both of whom he denounced as "corporate candidates."

**It's your twenties when you decide the vector of your life's work, the kind of mark you're going to make on the world... don't waste it.**

—Ralph Nader

## Peace, love and fur define Woofstock 2008



Photos by Allie Needham



On Saturday, Oct. 4, canines and companions gathered at the Green in Middlebury (left) for a howling good time for the whole family, and a good cause to boot.

A golden retriever (right) smiles for the camera. Kids and dogs especially took advantage of the event to run around and enjoy some fresh air. Participants were even treated to a demonstration by police officers and their dogs. One dog sniffed out a box of marijuana while another chased down a mock criminal decked out in padded protective gear.

Leashes did not stop this little girl (left) and her pup from enjoying the day on the Green. Dressed up in a sweater, this small dog looks ready to brave the brisk fall weather. There was quite a presence of canine fashionistas at the event, donning signature Vermont wool sweaters.



# Café pleases Provençal palette

By Kaity Potak  
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

What happens when a Provençal chef with 30 years of gastronomic experience graduates from "La Colline" in Montpellier, France and moves to the United States? He ends up in a different Montpellier entirely — The New England Culinary Institute in Montpellier, Vt., that is. Chef Robert Barral, a man who has opened restaurants and worn a toque, (the quintessential white chef's hat) in cities ranging from Montreal, Chicago and Boston, is just such a chef. Eventually settling in Brandon, Vt. Barral and his wife Line opened Café Provence. Working alongside a kitchen staff comprised of graduates and interns of the New England Culinary Institute (NECI), Barral and his wife seek to blend the Mediterranean cuisine of the South of France with the local flavor of the Vermont Fresh Network.

Upon entering the quaint restaurant, one is immediately greeted by the delicious scents of Robert's delicate entrées. Whiffs of bouillabaisse on saffron risotto with lobster and tarragon broth waft through the first step, followed by the aroma of caramelizing sugar on crème brûlée. The tantalizing waft of flavors makes the first impression, which, in turn, is enhanced by the friendly wait staff and pleasant atmosphere and furthered by the ample wine list.

Enjoying a glass of the Café Provence white label is a particularly good way to peruse the menu, which features everything from classic moules marinières to an intriguing pan-seared salmon-wrapped scallop dish served over squid ink pasta. Our party's excitement over the menu was slightly snuffed when the waiter announced that they were out of the escargots provençale, the corn and sweet potato chowder, and the lamb entrée — it was only 7:30 p.m. — but we did not suffer

too much. Instead of the escargot appetizer, we enjoyed beautifully prepared salads with local chèvre and a crab cake appetizer with two sauces. Ultimately, our entrée decisions included the baked scrod with curried lentils and puréed sweet potatoes, which ended up being a great second choice, and that eerie squid ink pasta that was actually delicious.

At nine o'clock or so, the little restaurant, with its tiled walls, sunflowers, and café chairs began to buzz with customers. The music was turned up ever so slightly, wine corks popped open at the bar with greater frequency and our waiter ended up getting quite a bit of exercise. He jokingly made a plea to our kinder senses. "It's my first day, go easy on me!" he gushed as he ran past our table.

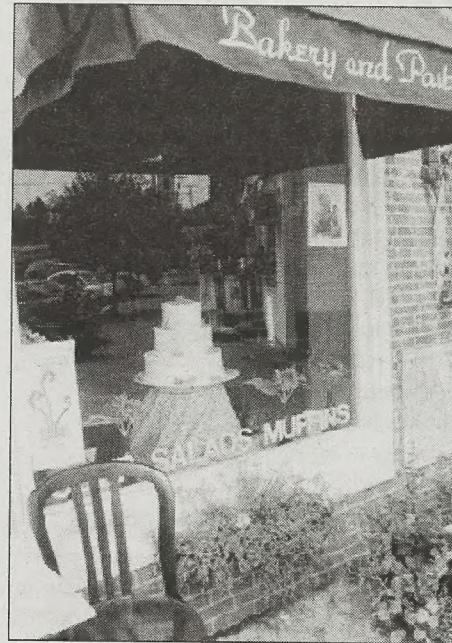
A woman came up behind him, rolled her eyes at him and laughed, "He's making that up, it's just busy this weekend." Our waiter smiled an "ohh, you caught me" kind of smile and introduced her to us as his wife. Café Provence has a welcoming ambience all on its own that is noticeable the moment one walks in, knowing that the whole place is run by husband and wife teams and local students offers a charm that has nothing to do with sunflowers and tarte aux pommes.

When I go to a French restaurant, my personal litmus is the crème brûlée test. This simple French dessert has a way of making or breaking my decision. It is French dessert at its absolute best. The evening that I went to Café Provence, there were actually three flavors of crème brûlée on the dessert menu. Feeling in a fall spirit, we ordered the dessert sampler, which included the maple crème brûlée, a gingerbread roulade. Like all of the other desserts at Café Provence, as well as at their sister bakery just down the street, this had been prepared here, possibly by Robert himself.

Perhaps the desire to blend southern France and mid-Vermont went a step too far.

The maple seemed to affect the consistency of the custard in a way that Julia Child might not have been completely happy about, but it was still pretty delicious. Worth more mention, though, was the goat cheese cheesecake with a cranberry chutney sauce. This was another decision inspired by, an "ahh, that sounds interesting. Let's taste that!" comment, but one that received four excited thumbs ups from all of us at the table.

It seems that the man in the toque behind those swinging kitchen doors knew exactly what we needed when he traded lavender fields for maple trees. Robert's Café Provence is a gem of a restaurant. Keep in mind the live jazz every Thursday night, wine tastings, and cooking and baking classes, when you make your way to Brandon for a little taste of France fabulous dining experience.



Courtesy  
Chef Barral's bakery serves delectable treats

## Group grills governor hopeful

By Derek Schlickeisen  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Amidst the release of national polls predicting significant Republican losses in this November's elections, Vermont Governor Jim Douglas '73 (R) looks well-positioned in his re-election race against challenger Gaye Symington (D), speaker of the democratically-controlled State House. But Symington is not showing signs of slowing down. In a lunchtime discussion last Tuesday with students and local leaders from the Town and Gown Group at the Middlebury Inn, Symington vigorously criticized Douglas' administration for "short-sighted" policies that have stretched the state's budget and tied his governing philosophy to the unpopular policies of national Republicans.

Members of the group were particularly interested in the state's aging infrastructure, questioning Symington on how she as governor would allocate Vermont's limited transportation dollars.

"Governor Douglas' administration has been failing to make basic repairs to our roads in Vermont," Symington told the group, "and as a result, a project that might have initially cost \$250,000 has now deteriorated to the point where it will cost \$2.5 million. Governor Douglas has avoided dealing with the tough

issues, and has offered half measures that are short-term in nature."

With the latest public poll in the race showing Symington trailing Douglas by 15 points, Symington worked to attach her campaign's message to the "change" mantra associated with Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama (IN), and to associate Douglas with Obama's opponent, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ).

"In these difficult economic times, she said," we need to make major changes to turn our economy around, and those changes will not occur under Governor Douglas and the presidential candidate he strongly supports, John McCain. If you believe in the kind of change Barack Obama wants to bring to our country, you should know that I'm the candidate who lines up with him on the major issues and will be a strong partner for him here in Vermont."

Yet that message may not prove enough for Symington in a race that has turned increasingly negative. In an advertisement released Sept. 23, Douglas' campaign criticized Symington for failing to fully release her family's income tax information for public inspection. While Symington in August followed the voluntary yet expected practice among politi-

cal candidates of releasing her own income tax returns, she did not do so for her husband, a former executive with Ben & Jerry's.

In response to Douglas' ad, Democratic officials in the state have accused the Governor of running a "nasty" campaign that abandons the spirit of recent contests in Vermont. In 2006, the House race between Rep. Peter Welch (D) and Martha Rainville (R) was found to have been the only Congressional race in the country to have been entirely devoid of negative advertising. For Douglas, however, the tactic seems to have paid off.

"My sense is that Symington simply hasn't gotten traction due to the negative publicity surrounding her taxes, and therefore has spent more time on the defensive than she might like," explained Professor of Political Science Matthew J. Dickinson.

Despite a relatively high disapproval rating for an incumbent governor — 43 percent — Douglas has also gained from the presence of progressive third-party candidate Anthony Pollina, who polls in the high single digits.

"Although Pollina has a strong core of supporters, most people view him as a spoiler," said Dickinson. "As a result, although Douglas is not overwhelmingly popular, he benefits from a divided opposition."

## Welch weighs in on bailout bill

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

actually affected most Vermonters. At the moment, the impact of the crisis on the average Vermonter according to C.A. Johnson Distinguished Professor of Economics David Colander is "not very much." However, Colander noted, "the potential is there for this to become very serious, and that could affect all Vermonters."

The credit crisis is only one aspect of an incredibly complicated economic situation. Politicians are worried about the impact on their constituents, but as Colander pointed

**What economists are worried about is the entire economy screeching to a halt.**  
—David Colander

out, "what economists are worried about is the entire economy screeching to a halt."

The impact of the financial crisis on Ver-

mont may be questionable, but Pardee expects that the evidence will become clearer in the months to come. As winter draws near, heating costs will affect Vermonters across the board, and business owners may suffer from disappointing profits during the holiday season. Pardee also suggested increasing "for sale" signs on lawns of Vermont houses and farms. Stock markets plunged Monday morning following the House's passage of the bailout bill, reeling from the weekend shake-up of European banks. Only time will tell if and how America's financial crisis will extend its reach across the Green Mountain state.

## local lowdown

### Swing Noir

Oct. 10, 8 p.m.

Celebrating the likes of Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli, Middlebury's Town Hall Theater features Swing Noir! With the dance floor available, audiences will be brought back jazz's roots. Tickets \$10. More info: Call 802-382-9222

### "Friday the 13th"

Oct. 11, 7:45 p.m.

"Friday the 13th" showing at the Turningpoint Center in the Marble Works. Free movie; popcorn and soda, \$1.

### Maritime Story Fest

Oct. 12, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

The Lake Champlain Lake Maritime Museum sponors the first annual Maritime Storytelling Festival in Ferrisburgh. Storytellers and historians and filmmakers will gather to celebrate their knowledge of Lake Champlain.

### Ripton Ridge Run

Oct. 12, 12:30 p.m.

Ripton Elementary School hosting a 10.4k run, 5k run and Fun Walk fundraiser; with prizes, raffles and lunch. Racers are asked to check in between 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

### Lincoln Trail Clearing

Oct. 13, 8:30 a.m.

Catamount Trail Association members and volunteers are gathering for a work day in Lincoln. The trail clearing will help complete a new section of the ski trail. Begin at Route 17 to Huntington Gap. Information: 802-583-5496.

### Vermont Ghost Stories

Oct. 16, 7 p.m.

The third annual Spook Night will feature ghost stories and all of the weird happenings of Vermont at the Bixby Library in Vergennes. Bixby Library. Free. Information: 877-2211.

## The Middlebury Campus

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## Editorial

### Lecture season needs the right space

The campus is in the midst of an idyllic stretch from fall family weekend through homecoming. This weekend students will enjoy the blissful ignorance that only fall recess can provide. And what a fall it has been. The campus has been blessed with more than just beautiful Saturdays; there has been an A-list parade of eminently qualified and intellectually stimulating lecturers. It is just as commonplace to see a *New York Times* bestselling author on the "Events at Middlebury" card at your dining hall table as it is to see a bowl of granola (which has been terrific this year).

Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation*, spoke about muckraking and social activism in September. Former Congressman Mickey Edwards lamented the fall of conservatism, and on Friday, *US News and World Report's* Robert Schlesinger '94, passed on stories of presidential speechwriters. The faculty has gotten in on the act too, with the Economics department providing a popular primer on the global financial crisis. Coming up, there is a highly anticipated symposium on food issues, which will garner plenty of interest, as well as talks with both of the gubernatorial candidates and Congressman Peter Welch.

What has been even more pleasant to see is the student reaction to the speaking lineup. One can hardly spot a drowsy eye, as students are excited, engaged, and eager to interact with these thinkers. But the ideal of a perfect lecture, in which a speaker addresses a capacity crowd and answers provocative questions while the organizer nervously glances at her watch because the questions just will not end, has not been realized. The reason, there has been *too much* student interest in the lectures.

Overflow crowds at Dana Auditorium have forced attendees out of seats into aisles, hallways, the stage, or worst of all, shut out completely. This happened with both the Schlosser and economics lectures. The Robert A. Jones '59 house, another go-to locale, has been similarly afflicted with lines for admission that slow the proceedings, cutting into the lecture period. Its limited capacity deterred guests, including — *gasp* — faculty, at last Friday's Schlesinger address.

In order to solve this seemingly minor hindrance, we urge event organizers to be more creative, and for the administration to make the options more flexible. The quest for the perfect space has been ending prematurely at Dana, which is insufficient because students are being locked out. Why haven't the events with large expected turnouts been held at Mead Chapel? The hallowed hall may seem imposing, but it has the necessary capacity. In addition, other spaces on campus are underutilized. Such as the stage at the Mahaney Center for the Arts, or even the dining halls, which are now equipped with rolling tables for this exact reason. It may be late in the season, but the student body would enjoy an outdoor lecture as well.

There are plans in the works. The McCullough renovation plans call for the Social Space to be returned to its original 1911 dimensions, which would increase its capacity to over 400.

It is a stated goal of the College to provide these arenas for intellectual discourse. The eighteenth point of the Strategic Plan advocates making available a rich program of lectures, panel discussions, and symposia; so far this fall the department chairs, commons heads and organizational leaders on campus are fulfilling their end of the bargain. It is time for the College's infrastructure to do so as well.

## contact the campus

To contact The Middlebury Campus Publications with story tips or content suggestions, e-mail: [campus@middlebury.edu](mailto:campus@middlebury.edu)

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THE POST-PARENTS WEEKEND BARTERING BEGINS...



Sam Dakota Miller

## notes from the desk:

Grace Duggan

### Where the ladies at?

After several years working for the *The Middlebury Campus* as a staff writer, photographer and editor, I think I can safely say that our campus newspaper is certainly no "Old Boys Club". Looking at our Opinions section, however, there is an appalling lack of female contributors to what is typically one of the more widely-read parts of the paper.

Last year *The Campus* put out 24 issues, along with a special April Fools' Day edition. Each issue included columns, letters to the editor, cartoons and op-eds (including "Notes From the Desk," an opinion piece written by a different editorial board member each week). There was also an online poll featuring the opinions of students on hard-hitting issues like "What do you think about Cake as the Spring Concert?" and "Where is the best place to spend your Spring Break?" Given that the trio of students featured in each web poll were approached to participate and also that they never had more than two published sentences a piece, I have excluded them from my look at the lack of balance between male and female voices in Opinions.

For the 2007-2008 academic year, females were *overwhelmingly* outnumbered by males in Opinions. This is ridiculous when one remembers that Middlebury's student body is typically an even split. For starters, there was no regular female columnist over the course of the entire year. Women authored only 17 percent of last year's columns and op-eds, and almost a third of those were jointly submitted with one or two male writers. Breaking that statistic down even further, one third of the females were either parents or Middlebury employees, bringing the percentage of published female Middlebury students down to a whopping 10 percent of all of the columns and op-eds written for the entire year. Out of the few published letters to the editor written by females, almost 40 percent of them were co-authored with at least one male. It may not sound like much to say that females were completely absent from the Opinions section for four issues last year, but that's almost

20 percent of the paper. Oftentimes the only female in the section with more than 250 words to her name was the editor who wrote that issue's "Notes From the Desk," a *requirement* for nearly every editor on staff at some point during the year. Even so, female editors were outnumbered almost two to one by their male counterparts, despite the fact that the editorial board was split nearly 50/50 last year.

While I recognize that *The Campus* could not run every received submission, blame falls not on Opinions editors but on a campus environment that potentially discourages vocal women. The March 2008 report from Middlebury's Task Force on the Status of Women noted that alcohol and males dominated Middlebury's social scene, but I would also say that males dominate many outlets for expression at the College, including, the Opinions section. The report notes that students have different classroom experiences based on their sex, but fails to mention possible manifestations of said differences, stating that 93 percent of females reported feeling safe and respected in the classroom. I'm all about feeling safe and respected, but what about encouraged? Women

are often criticized for being too vocal because it goes against gender stereotypes that value submissiveness and passivity. Is Middlebury an environment where the voicing of opinions from men and women is equally encouraged and facilitated, be it in the classroom, at a post-lecture discussion or in the newspaper? I'm not so sure. Maybe in some areas it is, but it certainly isn't showing in the Opinions section. After four issues this semester, female columnists and op-ed contributors are outnumbered 2:1. I applaud the work of Kate Lupo '10 and Leslie Lim '10 as columnists this year, but I urge undergraduate women — and the student body in general — to submit their views to this strikingly unbalanced section of the newspaper.

GRACE DUGGAN '09 IS AN ARTS EDITOR.  
SHE IS FROM NEW YORK, N.Y.

## campus policies and information

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's web site at [www.middleburycampus.com](http://www.middleburycampus.com). To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Sunday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

### A preface to lunch: James O'Brien Revisiting our unofficial motto

I heard someone say the words, "work hard, play hard" this weekend, and that, along with the Natural Ice that somehow ended up in my CUPPS mug, made me want to throw up. The whole "Work Hard!!! Play Hard!!!" philosophy is possibly the second dumbest thing I've ever heard. It's topped only by the fact that Subway's slogan is still "Eat Fresh." Whenever I hear "Eat Fresh," I feel as thought the commercials are intentionally directing me away from Subway — and towards a place that actually serves fresh food and doesn't microwave their meatball subs. They should change the slogan to "Eat Cheaply at a Place Endorsed by Some Guy Named Jared." In that case, I would appreciate their honesty and maybe buy something from them. Third place, in case you're wondering, goes to the fine print that pops up during Cialis ads that tell us that Cialis does not protect against HIV. Oh, really? Why is that even in the ad? Did people seriously think that their erectile dysfunction drug made them immune to HIV, leading them to sue Cialis over it... I can't figure this out.

Anyway, the "work hard-play hard" dynamic is equally as silly as the Subway slogan and Cialis' fine print. Let's look at what we are actually doing when we "work hard" and "play hard." For a good percentage of the campus, when we do what we refer to as "working hard," we're not even working up a sweat. Committed athletes certainly do their fair share of actual work, but a lot of us, me included, just sit at a computer

flipping through a book and call that working hard. Not that you need to go out and plow a field on a daily basis, but, and somehow it took me like two years to realize this, the actual real world difficulty level of our "hard work" is not that high. Sometimes I'm amazed by our collective ability to make ourselves as anxious about a calculus exam as our parents were about the threat of a Russian bomb exploding on their school.

**When you chase  
an idea, you never  
end up catching it.**

Instead of working hard and playing hard, maybe our motto should just be "work and play, and eat fresh." It's simple, but that's the beauty of it. You really don't need to end every night by walking 15 miles to the Mods in a desperate attempt to "have fun."

If there's one lesson I've learned in life, it's this: fun is always much closer to you than the Mods. If you take time look at what is right next to you — without expectations or judgments — you might find that, even though you aren't looking for anything, you've somehow found just what you're looking for.

JAMES O'BRIEN '10 IS FROM  
MEDFIELD, MASS.

### Out on a Lim: Leslie Lim Choosing to stray from my usual choice

Something eerie happened to me during the first few days of school. It was night and most appliances in my room were turned off, but I kept hearing really low strains of music. I attributed it to sensitive ears and somebody else's music. But it happened again, and determined that I was not losing my mind, finally found the source of the music. My speakers, which were hooked up to my computer, seemed to get the airwaves of WRMC so I could hear 91.1 FM whether I was actually tuned in or not, even if my computer was off as well. Because of this strange phenomenon, I now hear WRMC at nearly all times. Even with my own music on, I can hear echoes of another song in the background. Although avoidable if I cut the power to the speakers, this auditory invasion had become a minor source of frustration.

However, a couple of days ago, while attempting to do my homework, I heard two DJs talking about their show and introducing the songs. Their music of choice was metal, which is practically a galaxy away from the orbit of my musical taste. But their theme for the night was covers, so I heard metal bands playing songs anywhere from *Phantom of the Opera* to ABBA. It was surprisingly good and refreshing, and got me thinking about where and when I had developed this aversion to metal. I had no idea. It wasn't that I had an unpleasant experience with that genre per se, but that I enjoyed other types of music so much to the point where I had stopped exploring and appreciating.

The answer may lie in economics; in game theory, people choose sub-optimal outcomes because they are risk-adverse and have no incentive to deviate from a choice that has already given them satisfaction. In laymen's terms, it means that we loathe changing from our usual routine because we clearly know it works, and that we dislike moving to something differ-

“ ”

heard on campus

We may feel remote here in Vermont, but even the smallest blurb in the online edition of *The Campus* can become a national sensation within minutes.

— Public Affairs guidebook  
Page 12

### In my humble opinion: Daniel Roberts Underdog spirit gone in Beantown

Sorry if a sports column doesn't interest you, but 65 percent of the students here (I just made that up) are from J.O.B., so let's talk Red Sox.

From the latest issue of *GQ* magazine: "Boston... Enough. We get it. You rule the universe... But remember, fifteen years ago, your teams sucked large donkey balls."

We do remember, but only vaguely. It's difficult to be humble. Since 2004, the Red Sox have won twice, the Patriots have won twice, and the Celtics took the NBA finals last June, the team's first banner since 1986 (before my time on this earth and likely yours). I'm not even mentioning the Bruins because the NHL is no longer relevant in any real way. It's okay, Midd hockey, you guys are still cool.

But it's not just about winning. It's about the potential of winning. What's changed is that every season, in the three major team sports that people actually care about (football, baseball, and basketball, in that order), we now expect to be contenders for a title.

Obviously it wasn't always like that. When I was in middle school, my family had season tickets for the Celtics at the FleetCenter. During that era, we saw players come and go who were not great — Walter McCarty, Kedrick Brown, Vin Baker, Milt Palacio — and the team was not great either. In fact, after witnessing humiliating, double-digit losses every Friday night, and the management inexplicably jacking up ticket prices in 2003, my dad canceled our season tickets. Call us fair-weather fans, but this team was painful to watch.

Today, in the wake of the Boston Three-Party and their magical championship season, Bostonians expect results, and continue to get them. By the time you read this article the Sox will be in the midst of an ALCS battle with the Tampa Bay Rays. Non-mashholes (New Yorkers, most of all) may shudder to think of it, but it's very possible the Sox will nab their third world series title in five seasons.

So what's the problem? Besides being hated by everyone else in sports fandom (which we don't mind any-

way), we have an identity crisis. The underdog ethos is gone. The emblematic "B" on a Red Sox hat used to represent devoted suffering through season after season of early playoff elimination. That "B" now represents victory, and people hate Sox fans almost as much as they hate the Pats.

And boy, do they hate the Pats. Spygate didn't help, but it makes sense why people would resent Tom Brady. He's like that high school quarterback every guy emulates and hates — the handsome one with the hot girlfriend and the gang of worshipers. Brady's ridiculously good at his job, plus he finds time to grab the "hot girl." Then he knocks her up and leaves her for an even hotter girl.

As if all the winning isn't enough, he reminds everyone of his greatness by modeling for magazines. But

he's injured now, to the delight of NFL die-hards everywhere outside of Boston. So they find other players to hate, like Yoooooooooooo, (that chant is wicked obnoxious if you're not from Boston) and Paul Pierce (Lakers fans will forever complain about 'the injury').

Worst of all, there's a way we've begun to act, without even realizing it. Recently on the "T" an Orioles fan joked, "Boston sucks," and without missing a beat, some local Bostonian said haughtily, "Are you kidding? It's the sports capital of the world right now." I hated him and myself for a moment. What kind of stuff is coming out of our mouths?

So now what? I would never, ever root against the Sox, but a Dodgers World Series title might be nice. It would be the first one since 1955, and even though we all hate Manny Ramirez, it would stick to the Yankees, who booted Joe Torre (not his fault the Yanks lost that year) in one of the most foolish sports moves since the Charlotte Hornets gave away Kobe Bryant for Vlade Divac.

Who knows what's next for Boston sports, more wins, or a fall from grace? Sports success comes and goes in cycles, so let's talk in five years.

DANIEL ROBERTS '09 IS FROM  
NEWTON, MASS.

**Besides being hated by  
everyone else in sports  
fandom, we have an identity  
crisis. The underdog ethos  
is gone.**

ent because of the chance that it won't be as good as whatever we already have. Makes sense, right? Although this may be contorting a complex economic theory (can also be seen in prisoner's dilemma, anyone?) to my own needs, it is at work all around us. I stuck to the music I was comfortable with because I just didn't know whether something else would be as good. What I listened to might not have been the best or optimal choice, but because it was good, it sufficed.

This principle was even apparent at dinner last night. Thanks to Fall Family weekend and eating out with some lovely parents, my friends and I were at Taste of India. As we ordered, many of us who had frequented the establishment before were guilty of ordering the same thing, our so-called "favorite." Now, how were we to know that this was the best, our favorite dish? The thing is, we didn't. We were passive adherents possibly picking the sub-optimal outcome because it was guaranteed to be okay.

To be honest, I don't particularly think it's a problem that I always stick to Chicken Tikka Masala and garlic naan. And it's perfectly fine to stick with familiar comforts if you really want them. What I think is important is that we be aware of our choices. Are you doing something because of a blind routine? Or is it what you really want? If it's the latter, good for you, I'm glad you're thinking about your choices. But if it's the former, I urge you to give it more thought. Our actions should be with conviction, or at least consideration. Be aware of the optimal choice so that you might venture one day into unknown territory and find something amazing. Maybe you'll find some head banging metal of your own.

LESLIE LIM '10 IS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

# CAMP0101: Election 2008

## Party Favorites

The question: The candidates disagree over the policy of meeting with foreign leaders of ill repute. How is your candidate's position better?

### Realize the value of communication

By Jessie Singleton

Sarah Palin did a fine job of memorizing her foreign policy vocabulary words for the VP debate last week; however, I'm not exactly sure what she said, or what she meant to say, or what questions she thought she answered. I get it: Iran hates Israel, Ahmadinejad is a really mean dude, and Hamas is the wrong leadership for Palestine (thank you GWB). But I still want to know what she and John McCain are going to do about it.

After digging through JohnMcCain.com, I finally found a bullet point-press release outlining the McCain-Palin approach: "diplomacy." Did the third graders in Alaska get extra-credit for helping draft this, too? Let's get real: ignoring the people who hate us does not punish them, nor does it teach them a lesson the "hard way;" it appeases them, adding fuel to the fire in their fight against Western values, American elitism, and the failed Bush policies of the last eight years. John McCain, you should know better, America cannot put other nations in "time-out."

I care about our country's position and

prestige within the world community and I want to make sure my vote goes to the best team to restore both the influence of our soft power, and also our legitimacy in using hard power when necessary.

The Obama-Biden plan does this, taking a few hints from the godfather of diplomacy, Henry Kissinger. Kissinger still insists on the value of communication, the importance of bringing friend and foe to the table, and the need to garner widespread support through inclusion. The Democrats know that the challenges of the global fight against terrorism, climate change, disease, and poverty can be addressed through America's restored leadership in the world. But we can't do it alone, and we can't do it if we're acting like children.

Sorry, Sarah. I guess it turns out third grade foreign policy doesn't work in the 21st century.

JESSIE SINGLETON '08.5 IS FROM KINGSPORT, TENN. SHE IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE ROOSEVELT INSTITUTION.

### Behind enemy lines: Andrey Tolstoy Whispers from Boris's backyard to today

One night, when I was three years old, my mother told me to pack my things and get ready to leave. I grabbed a stuffed animal along with a bag of pretzels, and climbed into the cab with my sister. Four hours later we were in Paris. We stayed in a dingy hotel, the first one we could find at 3 a.m. There was no food left in Russia, my parents explained, so we were going to live here for a while.

It was hard starting from scratch. My father, a former dissident, worked at a Russian-language newspaper, earning peanuts. My mother, a genetic engineer, got a job babysitting for wealthy Russian families. Our first Christmas we didn't have money for a tree, and we waited until our Catholic neighbors threw one out, so we could put it up for Orthodox Christmas on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>.

One of the many freelance jobs my mother took up that first year was in cinema. She was hired by a studio to coach local star Nathalie Baye in speaking French with a Russian accent for a film about a Canadian cleaning lady of Russian descent, who returns to the motherland to get in touch with her roots.

I'm not sure whether my mom was amused or horrified by the plot. Russia was then run by Boris Yeltsin, an alcoholic who had a degree in construction (senior seminar in cement mixing and all that jazz) that rose through the ranks of the Communist Party as part of Gorbachev's plan to enliven the ranks of the aging and discredited political apparatus. Sensing the imminent decline of his mentor, Yeltsin put himself in opposition, breaking from the establishment and arguing for an independent Russia. The public was captivated by the fact that he rode the bus to work, didn't hide his village accent, and

**Yeltsin was a maverick, in that if there was a number of ways you could do something, he would inevitably pick the worst.**

was once caught on camera in a documentary taking shots of vodka after work. Yeltsin was a maverick, in that if there was a number of ways you could do something, he would almost invariably pick the worst. His extreme free-market policies, known as "shock therapy" by their supporters and "economic genocide" by their detractors, left the country in shambles, run by thugs and highway robbers. In the second year of his presidency, he used tanks to shell an uncooperative parliament. Because he was not gifted intellectually, he was easily enamored of various "progressives" and criminals that bled the country dry in the eight years of his reign. He left office with a 2% approval rating.

In real life, the village where Nathalie Baye's character ended up is called Provideniya, Russian for "providence." It is inhabited by two thousand Yupiks, a branch of Eskimo, and was

### Don't negotiate just to negotiate

By Stefan Claypool

In the 1980s, a succession of Soviet hard-liners demanded concessions from Western powers, but were unwilling to give up anything in return. Top-level talks stalled until Brezhnev, Andropov, and Chernenko were all dead, leaving Soviet power in the hands of Mikhail Gorbachev. Sensing the new General Secretary's genuine desire for reform, Margaret Thatcher famously declared, "We can do business together."

In order for diplomacy to be effective, both sides must genuinely desire resolution and be willing to work together toward a common goal. American goodwill won't go far toward solving the world's problems if those with whom we negotiate do not desire peace on mutual terms.

Yet Barack Obama seems to believe that if he sits down with rogue leaders, then our conflicts will vanish into thin air. Why else would he pledge to meet without preconditions with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Kim Jong Il, and other enemies of the United States? Does Obama genuinely believe that a friendly chat

with Ahmadinejad will force the Iranian leader to renounce his statement that any nation who recognizes Israel "will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury"? Or is the Senator just relying on hope once again? Barack Obama simply doesn't understand that there are some people who can't be talked out of their hatred of this country and that for which it stands.

The President needs to understand that despite our best intentions, there are leaders around the world who wish us nothing but harm. John McCain understands that top-level negotiations, president-to-president, could do more harm than good. That's why he won't sit down with rogue leaders until they have proven their willingness to fairly negotiate for peace. John McCain won't negotiate for the sake of negotiating. His priority won't be talking. It'll be getting things done.

STEFAN CLAYPOOL '09 IS FROM MEQUON, WISC. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF MIDDLEBURYREPUBLICAN.COM.

### CAMP0101: Election 2008 SYLLABUS COUNTDOWN

DATE & TOPIC	DAYS UNTIL THE ELECTION
September 11	The GOP Ticket
September 18	The Environment
September 25	Education
October 2	Supreme Court
October 9	Foreign Relations
October 23	The Economy
October 30	Projections
November 4	Election Day

26

### THE HORSE RACE

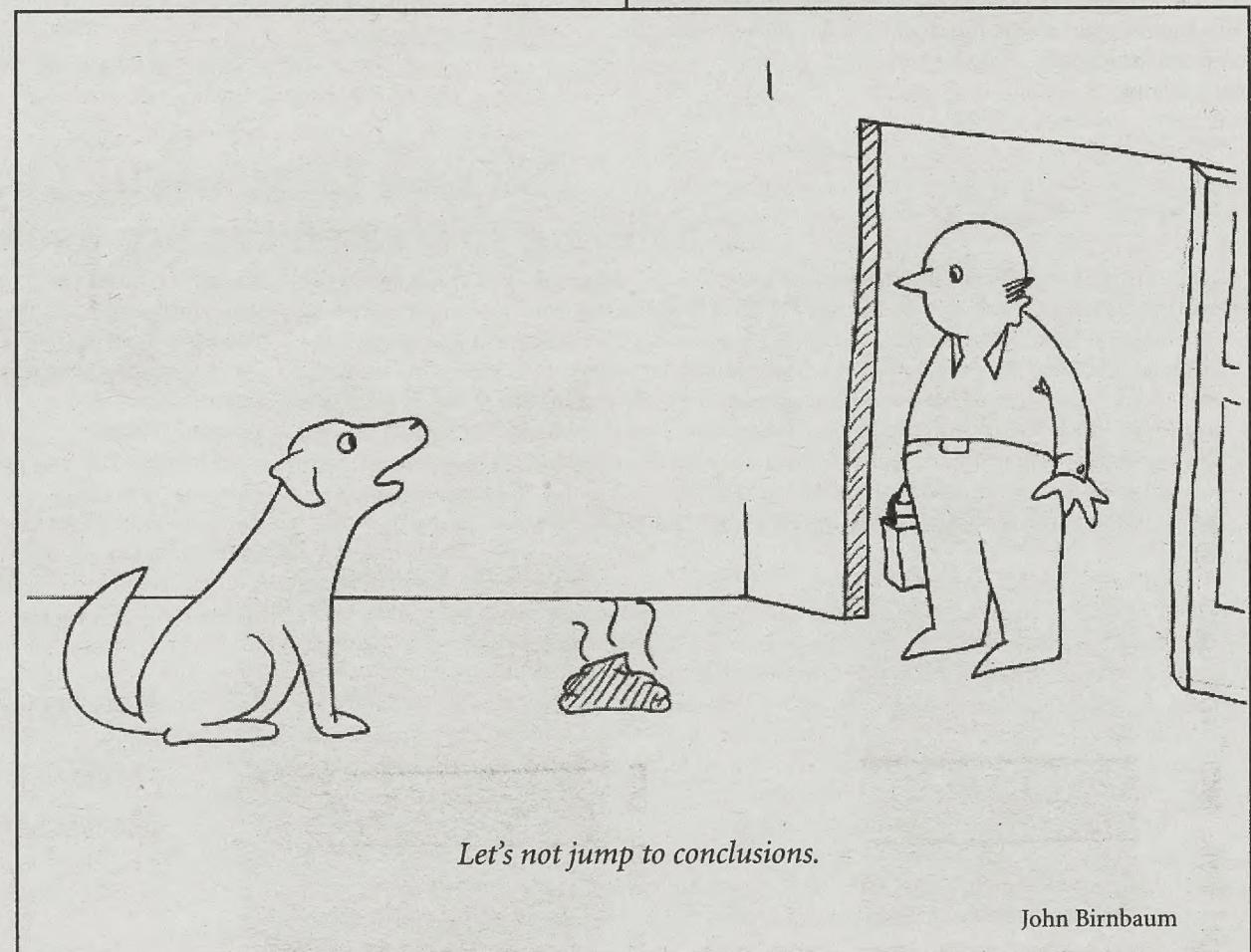
3 DAY TRACKING POLL AVG FROM REAL CLEAR POLITICS (OCT. 6)  
50% OBAMA 43% McCAN

### Have an opinion?

send letters to the editor and  
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ANDREY TOLSTOY '10 IS FROM ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA.



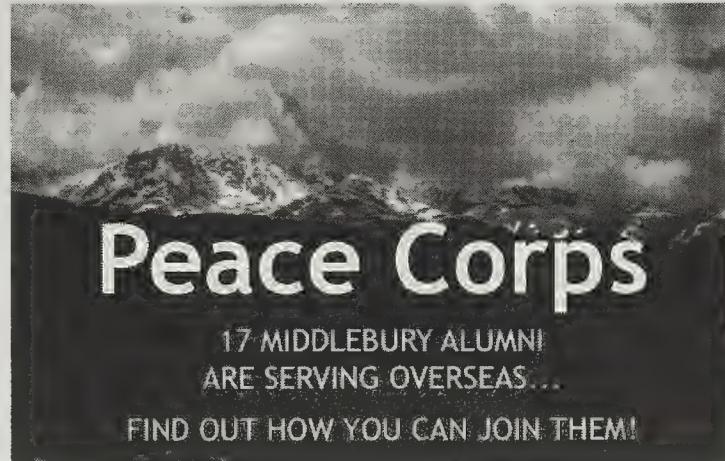
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Save the Date:  
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6 pm - 7 pm  
Middlebury College  
MBH 148

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## Faculty flaunts its expertise in the press



Andrew Ngew

By Rachael Jennings

FEATURES EDITOR

After the flood of Web pages directly linked to the College, [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) brings up a few interesting search results on Middlebury: a *New York Times* article on Neil Waters' history class and the banning of Wikipedia as a relevant source of research, a variety of sites describing the College's environmental initiatives, detailed accounts of Quidditch matches and pieces on the Amethyst initiative.

Of 976,000 hits for "Middlebury College," some search results are very focused on a small part of the College's activities instead of painting a whole picture of the school — for example, items relating to McCandell's drinking-age initiative or a magical sport phenomenon, though interesting, are small segments of the College's expansive repertoire.

The College gets press for everything — even those things over which it has no direct control.

Thus, Middlebury College's Public Affairs Office is making a purposeful effort to get the College recognized in a strong academic context.

The Public Affairs Office works daily to pitch stories to the media about on-campus success stories, student and faculty accomplishments, new programs and courses — constantly publishing materials on topics from the arts to colloquia. In fact, they set the goal of publishing over 100 press releases a year.

Basically, they are out to make the College shine in its best light.

Along with responding to local, regional and national calls with requests for information and interviews, the office monitors the "hits" that they receive each day (which include articles like "College Presidents Stand up for a Common Sense? I'll Drink to That," and "The War on College Cafeteria Trays").

Beyond their regular routine, the members of Public Affairs — including Director Sarah Ray, Associate Director Blair Kloman and Assistant Director Stephen Diehl — are trying to promote faculty "experts."

"Promoting faculty is one way we promote Middlebury — by demonstrating that Middlebury and its faculty are leading the dialogue on national issues," said Ray.

The faculty is certainly receiving a good amount of press lately — Economics Professor David Colander has provided background information for various reporters on the current economic bailout and has contributed quotes to several pieces for *The New York Times*.

"When I first came to Middlebury," said Colander, "the Public Affairs program was very helpful in introducing me to people at a variety of newspapers, thereby supplementing my contacts."

Thereafter, Colander had the contacts established and did not need to defer to Public Affairs as often. He continues to provide information for media sources, but researches purely what he is interested in and not just that which is considered "newsworthy."

"Public Affairs can help young professors, but I don't think it is a good research strategy to try to work on issues that the press is interested in," he added.

Professor Matt Dickinson is an expert on the American presidency and American politics, and in light of the recent election, has gathered a great deal of press attention — he even received e-mails from a newspaper reporter in Ecuador.

Public Affairs was also instrumental in convincing him to publish his presidential blog (<http://blogs.middlebury.edu/presidentialpower/>), which attracts significant attention.

Some of the new initiatives that Public Affairs are taking to expand the positive effects of such publicity include publishing a guidebook titled "Working with Public Affairs: Making the Most of the Media." This manual offers tips to faculty and staff on working with Public Affairs to interact with outside media.

This useful tool includes topics ranging from responding to calls from reporters to writing op-ed pieces.

"With the immediacy of the Internet, today's media are no longer limited to print, radio and TV," the guidebook states. "We may feel remote here in Vermont, but even the smallest blurb in the online edition of *The Campus* can become a national sensation within minutes. The more 'in con-

**Promoting faculty is one way we promote Middlebury — by demonstrating that Middlebury and its faculty are leading the dialogue on national issues.**

— Sarah Ray

trol' we can be of our own news, the better."

The guidebook also makes suggestions on how to be more well-received by the media: for example, it notes that when being interviewed, reporters love statistics that state the ideas being discussed in simple, concrete terms.

"We want the faculty to know that we are always looking for new individuals who can speak about newsworthy topics," said Ray.

These individuals can now be featured on the Public Affairs Experts page (<http://www.middlebury.edu/about/pubaff/facultyexperts/>), where various faculty "experts" can promote up-to-date resource materials for the media on their areas of expertise.

Ray warned that faculty members should not be put off by the word "experts."

"This description doesn't mean that a faculty member must know literally everything about a particular topic to be interviewed about it," she explained. "They know far more than the average reader, listener, or viewer who will be reading, listening to, or watching the interview, and that's all that matters."

Public Affairs has also begun incorporating video and audio clips on the Public Affairs web page. Video clips on the Experts Pages specifically have been a great success.

"You can see Jason Mittell speaking about changing

trends in television; Jack Byrne discussing why we should care about sustainability or Allison Stanger on privatization of government," commented Ray. "Adding the clips makes our pitches of these experts to the media much stronger — it also makes the person come alive for anyone visiting the Web site."

Experts are in high demand: most of the calls that come into the Public Affairs office are media looking for an expert on a particular topic that is in the news. Most of the time, the staff members that Public Affairs contact are happy to speak with reporters and relay their expertise.

An exciting opportunity that the Public Affairs office is bringing to Middlebury is a brief talk to the faculty and staff conducted by *New York Times* Associate Managing Editor Chuck Strum. During the event on Oct. 23 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 216 of Bicentennial Hall, Strum will offer interview tips for the faculty attendees.

In interacting with professors and connecting them with the media, Public Affairs hopes to increase the prestige of the College's name.

Part of Middlebury's increased focus on the press is a stretch for the image of "First Global Liberal Arts College" — a phrase coined by Vice President for Communications Michael McKenna.

"We deliver small, student-teacher centered learning environments on a broad array of interdisciplinary subjects in a variety of settings all over the world, from Vermont to California, from Paris to Hangzhou," said Michael Geisler, vice president of the Middlebury Language Schools and Schools Abroad.

"This makes us more globally engaged and internationally recognized than all of our competitors in the category of leading national colleges, while allowing us to retain the small intellectual learning communities that is characteristic of a liberal arts college," he added.

"As Middlebury's profile has risen, the demand for our experts has risen," said Ray. "The faculty are the heart of the College and they help attract great students who eventually become loyal alumni. The staff contribute to the quality of life for students, and the health and operations of the institution, so their contributions are important to highlight too."

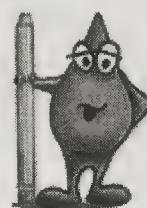
Public Affairs works tirelessly to secure a positive image for the College — an ideal image that varies between professors and students, but the heart of which remains the same.

Assistant Professor of Sociology Laurie Essig, an expert on pop culture, described this image as "an environment in which critical inquiry is encouraged and nourished."

Dickinson commented that he hopes that the vision of the College will be as diverse as the students' interests and ideas fostered here and as colorful and different as each of those 976,000 hits for "Middlebury College."

"I think," said Dickinson, "that we should not be viewed as dominated by one particular viewpoint, whether it be on the environment or the presidential race or the other pressing issues of the day, and instead viewed as a college that embraces diversity of thought and challenges conventional wisdom. I hope the Public Affairs Office can contribute to that perspective."

**Cry Me a River**  
Jesse Davidson explores the science behind your tears, page 13.



**Be a Man**  
The D-spot tells you what's wrong with the boys at Middlebury, page 14.



**Living the Green Life**  
Fall harvest is in full swing at the Organic Garden, page 14.

# Ariely predicts irrational behavior

## Economist recommends smart barhopping strategies

By Eric Bartolotti  
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, Oct. 3, Behavioral Economist Dan Ariely — the author of *Predictably Irrational* — spoke to students (and some parents) in Dana Auditorium about the “hidden forces that shape our decisions” in the marketplace.

Five things struck me about the first 15 minutes of his talk.

1. Before he was introduced, I mistook him for a “sound-tech guy” because of his jeans and black t-shirt.

2. He fixed a feedback problem by stuffing a sweatshirt over the microphone on the podium.

3. He ditched his microphone when the problem persisted and continued orating without breaking stride.

4. When a drape blocked the viewing screen in the auditorium, he enlisted an assistant to stand on stage and hold back the offending curtain.

5. He asked the audience if any of them were on anti-depressants.

Ariely’s was the first lecture I have attended at Middlebury, so I am not sure how it compared to a typical presentation. All I know is that Ariely convinced me to put his book on my Christmas list.

If you did not make it to Ariely’s talk, you missed a lot of jokes and also a great deal of sound advice. Summarized below are a few of his points, based on the premise that evolution is still working hard to smooth our brain’s rough edges, that I believe are most relevant to students at the College.

### How to obtain organs from your citizens?

If you ever find yourself running your own country, you will probably be facing a lot of new concerns, like making sure your hospitals have enough spare organs. So how do you ensure that your citizens consent to become organ donors? Ariely pointed to the discrepancy between countries like Germany and the United Kingdom, where less than 20 percent of citizens consent, and those like Austria and France, where the number is closer to 99 percent. The reason for this boils down to something as mundane as the format of DMV forms — whether an applicant must check a box in order to become an organ donor, or check a box in order to opt out of or-

gan donation. As Ariely explained, organ donation is an emotional decision, which scares and paralyzes the person into resigning to the default option.

### How to create a café chain that sells very expensive coffee?

We are all aware of the great success of the Starbucks franchise, but few of us understand how exactly they pull it off. First, they produced coffee of an arguably higher quality than other cafés. Then, more importantly, they fabricated an image for that coffee. They gave their coffee fancy names, flaunted the French presses and stocked the shelves with Euro pastries. Starbucks was not just a coffee shop — Starbucks was its own thing. People didn’t compare Starbucks coffee to Dunkin’ Donuts coffee because Starbucks didn’t look anything like Dunkin’ Donuts. Thus, people never stopped to consider whether Starbucks was worth the extra cost.

### How to bar-hop and score dates?

This is probably the one that everyone will read first. Anyway, Ariely explained a test where a subject viewed three people — two comparably attractive people, Person A and Person B, and one “less attractive version” of

Person A. When asked to pick the best-looking, most people responded, “Person A.” The experiment was duplicated, this time using a less attractive version of Person B, and the second time subjects preferred Person B. The moral of the story: next time you go bar-hopping or clubbing, go with a friend who looks like you, but is slightly less attractive. Our irrational brain has trouble deciding between two comparable options, but when one is shown to be clearly superior to a third, it looks better overall, explained Ariely.

### How to stop people from cheating?

Apparently, the College administration is already familiar with this one. Studies demonstrate that an honor code signed at the beginning of a test stops cheating more effectively than one signed at the end of the test. This holds true even at schools that don’t even have an honor code, like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Ariely also described a “cheating window,” or a range of acceptable cheating that humans hold for themselves. This acceptable range is relatively small, but irrationally stays the same regardless of outside circumstances, such as the payoff for cheating and the probability of being caught.



Denise Hofmann

### MYSTERY OF NATURAL THEATER BAFFLES STUDENTS AT MIDDLEBURY

The Amphitheater is a veritable legend on campus. Where is it? Sorry, our lips are sealed.

## MiddSexGuy



by A.J. Meyer

So I’ve been catching a lot of flak about last week’s column. My interactive idea isn’t going to work out (this campus is up-tight) and I guess no one else thinks that Paul Newman was a sexual icon (he was pretty short). That’s too bad on both accounts. Originally, I wanted to write this column under a pen name and that wasn’t allowed, so I’m doing the best I can with what I’ve got. Also, why is it that when a woman writes about her views on sex here, she’s a brave pioneer, and when a man does, he’s a creep?

This week, I’m talking about oral sex and how it can be one of the most erotic, pleasurable, exciting, painful, awful, disgusting and everything-in-between experiences for us young lovers. I think oral sex gets a bad rap, especially with some of the more common stereotypes surrounding it. In most regards, standard intercourse is viewed more like a symbiotic struggle. I say struggle because, in

the end, life is one big struggle. With regular good sex, the power should be shared between the couple. There should be communication and the desire for both parties to make each other feel good. Standard oral sex (excluding 69) is viewed as more one-sided. One party is doing all the work, while the other reaps all the benefits. This view represents another form of struggle. Who has the power? The recipient or the provider?

I contend that, as in business, the provider has all the power. It is the provider that causes the chills down your spine and your shortness of breath. It is also the provider that can cause the wincing pain, lack of pleasure, and possible dismemberment. The power lies in the mouth of the provider (cringe now). Pardon my crudeness, but this is a SEX column. When a man goes down on a woman or vice versa, there is an element of surprise and uncertainty for the recipient. Who knows what’s going to happen down there? Will he or she rock your world, provide a lackluster performance or just be downright awful? It’s all part of the fun of sex. Let yourself be naked and vulnerable. It’s hard to do, but has considerable spiritual benefits. Again, I will advocate the importance of communication in sex. Ask your partner what they like. If something isn’t working out, provide nicely phrased suggestions and encouragement. And, if they are doing a great job, let them know about it.

As with everything in life, practice and study result in skill. Everyone has those horror stories about their first time giving or re-

ceiving and we’ve seen that braces scene from the *40 Year Old Virgin*. I encourage people to go online and check things out. There are tons of resources like Clitical.com and even instructional videos on how to improve your oral skills (Nina Hartley’s Advanced Guide to Oral Sex DVD). The reality is that oral sex is now very, very mainstream. Statistics on teenagers in the United States who have performed oral sex are consistently well over 50 percent and often range between 60 percent and 80 percent.

I don’t know who is responsible for the innovation of oral sex, but it’s been around, seemingly forever. Different cultures and religions have varying views on the practice. I think my favorite is the Chinese Taoist idea that cunnilingus and the orgasm increase longevity.

It has tons of different names and ways to do it, but perhaps the most important thing about oral sex is doing it for someone else’s sake and not for yours. Oral sex should be something shared like presents at Christmas. Ask your partner what he or she likes and do your best to show them you care about that. Sex is a healthy part of healthy relationships and oral sex can be just earth-shattering. Do some research, try something new and see what happens. Also remember to know your comfort zone. Don’t let anyone force you or pressure you into anything you don’t want to be doing. Trust is essential in all sex. Have fun. Be safe.

Any questions? Contact A.J. Meyer at [MiddSexGuy@gmail.com](mailto:MiddSexGuy@gmail.com).

## Dr. Jesse, B.A.



by Jesse Davidson

What do babies and rioters have in common? Yep, they both deserve to get put behind bars when they act up — either in cribs or in jail cells. But more importantly, rioters also find themselves crawling, drooling, and boo-hooing, thanks to the College Chemistry Department. In 1928, two Middlebury professors, Ben Corson and Roger Stoughton, created CS (Corson-Stoughton) gas, or what we know today as tear gas. These two teachers were a bit more courageous than the contemporary research scientist though. Instead of testing this chemical on a mouse, or an uppity lab T.A., they decided to self-experiment. As they attested in their report, the gas made their noses and mouths “smart considerably,” and the sneezing and coughing was “disastrous.” Today, CS tear gas is used globally as a riot control agent, and their work certainly deserves ample recognition. What I really wanted to discuss, though, is the process of tearing up, and how it can actually be a healthy undertaking.

Let’s first think about some situations that elicit tears. Cranking out a thesis in one semester (mildly sad). Hiding out in the library bathroom at 1 a.m. so you can keep working there (somewhat sad). Using wadded-up paper as a pillow while sleeping under your carrel (rock-bottom). If you find yourself in any of these situations, crying will probably be the last thing to pull you out of your academic pothole. I have some good news for the athletes of Middlebury, however: science says that crying may make you a better competitor.

A group of researchers from the University of Michigan determined that crying and sweating can prevent a breathing disorder known as exercise-induced asthma (EIA). EIA is a problem that adversely affected many medal hopefuls in Beijing this past summer, and is most commonly observed at elite levels of competition. It is also estimated that one in three collegiate athletes suffer from EIA, even though many of them have no medical history of asthma whatsoever. Splendid. If I do my math correctly, using my calculator watch, this means that 33 percent of athletes at Middlebury may have some degree of exercise-induced asthma. That is a surprisingly high number. Before you start crushing inhalers, though, do know that EIA is extremely mild in most cases. It is also transient. Once strenuous activity has ended and an athlete comes to rest, his or her air passages will relax back to normal. But how do tears and sweating have anything to do with asthma?

Excretions that come from your sweat and salivary glands, tear ducts, and the inner lining of your respiratory tract are under the same nervous control in your body. That is why, when you eat something sour, you salivate and tear up simultaneously. These researchers suggest that the amount of tears and sweat you produce can be indicative of the water volume secreted in your airways, and this moisture keeps your airways from getting irritated when you breathe heavily during exercise. Without moisture, as in EIA, your airway can swell and constrict, and your athletic performance can suffer. So, the best way to get ready for a game? Cry it out brah. Keep it in the locker room, though.

# Organic garden harvests fresh ideas for fall



By Aylie Baker  
FEATURES EDITOR

Reaching the end of that wonderful grace period between a bountiful summer and icy November chills, the Middlebury Organic Garden is still going strong. Director Jay Leshinsky and a dedicated group of students keep the harvest thriving even with winter fast approaching.

This year students collected a variety of produce from the garden, including strawberries,



string beans, chard, turnips, melons, tomatoes, asparagus, potatoes, melons, lettuce and even Burmese sour leaves. Don't be surprised if you spot some of this year's harvest in the dining halls. Just a few weeks ago students harvested honey from the garden's apiary alongside Kirk Webster.

Hurry down and you may be able to enjoy a last taste of summer with sweet grapes and a smattering of wild flowers. Make a bouquet for a friend or loved one. Mosie through the pollination gardens. Check out the progress on the construction of the new outdoor classroom, or, in the true spirit of the garden, just sit back and take in the Vermont vista.



Photos by Angela Evancie and Aylie Baker

## The Ethicist



by Amanda Greene

Would you leave your garbage on the floor of the reading room in the Axinn Center? I would venture to say no. Why then do students think it's ok to litter on pathways? Granted, the walk from Bihall to Ross is not complete with dark wood flooring, but Middlebury employees work hard to maintain the grass and the sidewalks. Middlebury's outdoor campus is just as much part of the college community as our new pristine (and gorgeous!) buildings. I find it extremely upsetting that students think it's ok to break plastic plates and leave the pieces scattered along the grass.

If you drop something, pick it up. Take some responsibility. If students only pick up after themselves in academic buildings they privilege our classrooms over our environment, and suggest that certain spaces are more valued than others. I would argue that, in warm weather, Middlebury students spend a considerable amount of their time outside, and that we love Battell Beach just as much as the new library. So, we need to start respecting our environment, and this includes hallways. The window sill — not a place for empty beer cans. Do people really think it's ok to leave their trash bags in the

hallways? Dirty plates don't belong in the LaForce library. I know it's basic, and seems like a non-issue, but sometimes I wonder. Middlebury students talk so much about working towards a greener planet and a greener future, and perhaps a good place to start would be by picking up after ourselves, even if it's Saturday night.

And now for this week's question:

Q: I need coffee in the morning. Sometimes, I forget to bring my own mug to the dining hall at breakfast and, out of necessity, take my coffee to class in a school owned mug. Is it ethical for me to remove glassware from the dining hall when I know there is a shortage of mugs? Additionally, sometimes I'm walking towards the dining hall and spot dishes that others have discarded. Am I obligated to take them back to the dining hall?

— Mug-Mugger

A: It's fine to take mugs out of the dining hall as long as they are promptly returned. The dining hall staff is aware that students take mugs elsewhere, and if they were really opposed to such actions they would instruct students not to leave with mugs. When students remove mugs, plates and glasses from the dining hall, it is assumed that the item will be returned within the next twenty-four hours. Our dining policy places trust in students and believes that everyone is working towards a positive dining environment. If you see dishes on your walk to the dining hall, and have a free hand, you should pick them up. You have no obligation to pick up after others, but I would hope that you, as a Middlebury student, would be encouraged to do your part to keep campus as clean as possible.

Want to consult the ethicist? Send submissions to [amgreen@middlebury.edu](mailto:amgreen@middlebury.edu).

## The D-spot

by Dina Magaril

I spent this past weekend surrounded by beautiful, intelligent and driven women — the fact that they happen to be my closest friends is just an added bonus. Yet, on any given night, rather than being whisked away to Black Sheep by one of their many suitors or having their mailboxes flooded with love letters, you can find them drinking wine while discussing art, politics and their love lives, or lack thereof. Still, I would prefer to spend time with these marvelous ladies on any given night than engage in most of the other options out there, like the cheap beer and drunken fiascos involving drunken boys that used to categorize my life here.

But as someone who visited me from out of town so accurately pointed out, there isn't anything wrong with Middlebury girls — rather, it's the world of Middlebury and its males that are totally backwards.

The women here are gorgeous, independent and many are dare-I-say brilliant, while the selection of guys we have to choose from are schleppey, cocky, and think they have much more game than they actually do. The boys on this campus, and I say boys because they have a long way to go before they become men, have no idea what a woman wants, what she needs or how to give it to her. We shouldn't have to choose between Mr. Bad in Bed, Mr. Mind Games and Mr. Can't Make Up His Mind. To make matter worse, it is way too easy for Middlebury males to never have to change their ways. They mess up, we forgive them, they cheat, we take them back, they're selfish, we make sacrifices. If these boys ever want to become men they need to step it up.

Luckily, there do exist correct and even appreciated ways to court on campus, as well as some practices to stay away from. You just have to pay attention and exert some effort.

Don't: Send her a late night text message luring her to your bedroom.

Do: Date. For dating's sake. This means not expecting a girl to sleep with you just because you shelled out 50 bucks for dinner, but getting to know her through conversation and shared interests.

Don't: Ask out/kiss/sleep with her friend but then decide you really like her instead. We understand there are limited resources, but have some decency and keep it in your pants.

Do: Get to know her friends platonically. If you're in with the posse, you're in.

Don't: Play mind games. If you like a girl, tell her. Don't call and email every day and then say you just want to be friends when clearly, you just want to sleep with her.

Do: Be honest with yourself. Figure out what you want before you rush out to get it. If you're not serious and she is serious or vice versa, you're wasting both your time.

Don't: Profess your love/hook up with someone and then tell her you have a girlfriend.

Do: Break up with said girlfriend if you want to start seeing someone new. Common courtesy, boys, come on.

Don't: Tell a girl you're into her, may even love her, but aren't enough of man to be with her.

Do: Become enough of a man to be with her. We know you have it in you, just try.

So next time you boys start wondering why you're not getting as much ass as you used to, I hope you'll look deep inside and realize that it is you who are the problem, not us. Please try to work on that.



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# THE KITE RUNNER



WRITTEN BY EMMA STANFORD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY NICHOLAS SOHL

Last Monday, students at a packed Wright Memorial Theatre saw one of the decade's most popular and powerful books brought to vivid, wrenching life. Arian Moayed performed a concentration in under one hour of *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini's compelling book about love, guilt and social classes in 1970s Afghanistan.

This production was part of the touring Literature to Life program of The American Place Theatre. The American Place Theatre has been a mainstay of the off-Broadway theater community for 47 years; the Literature to Life program is relatively new, bringing books such as *The Kite Runner* to audiences through intense performances including only one actor. Master teaching artist Chris Snock, who worked extensively on this production, came onstage for a few minutes before the performance to stress the authenticity of what the audience was about to see. Although Wynn Handman necessarily cut large portions of the 400-page novel while adapting it for the stage, the entire script is drawn directly from Hosseini's text.

"If it's not on the page, it's not on the stage," said Snock.

Anyone familiar with the book will appreciate the challenges Handman faced in adapting it as a one-man stage performance. *The Kite Runner* is an epic, spanning several decades and cultures while touching on many broad themes. The crux of the story, however, lies in the events that took place in Afghanistan in 1975, and these same events are those relayed to us through Moayed's potent performance.

The central character is Amir, a bookish twelve-year-old of the elite Pashtun ethnic group, who lives with his father in Kabul. Amir's relationship with his father is strained; his mother died in childbirth, and he constantly fails to live up to his father's expectations of bravery and athleticism. His solace has been the devoted friendship of the family servant's son, a member of the persecuted Hazara named Hassan. But the friendship becomes a torture when, defending the kite that Amir has won in a competition, Hassan is raped and brutalized by the bully Assef. Amir sees this happening, but does nothing to defend his friend. From that moment onward their friendship is corrupted by Amir's guilt and his determination to find fault in Hassan. In one harrowing scene, Amir holds up a pomegranate and asks Hassan, "What would

you do if I hit you with this?" Hassan does nothing. Amir, made violent by guilt, pelted Hassan with pomegranates, waiting for a reaction. Finally Hassan smashes the last pomegranate into his own face and asks, "Are you satisfied?" As he performed this scene, Moayed's eyes were filled with tears. He was clearly painfully aware of Amir's wrongdoing, but he spared the audience nothing in conveying that injustice.

Wright Memorial Theatre was left bare for this performance, with a stool covered in bright cloth standing out as the only set piece. While *The Kite Runner*'s tragedy revolves around inaction, whether Amir's failure to fight for Hassan or Hassan's failure to fight back, Moayed committed no such crime. He began slowly, trudging onstage in jeans and a fleece vest and speaking, as the adult Amir, as if each word were made of iron. But as soon as he slipped on an embroidered vest to portray the twelve-year-old Amir, he was constantly in motion. Amir was his primary character, and he perfectly captured the excited superlatives and nervous energy of a young boy, bouncing on the stool and wiping his nose with a sleeve. But Moayed also played around eight other characters, including Hassan and Assef. By adjusting his posture or the cadence of his voice, or even by moving his eyes, Moayed constructed remarkably vivid multi-character scenes. When he acted out an early face-off between Amir and Assef, Assef's swagger and Amir's terrified gaze were enough to set a one-actor confrontation on fire.

In a question-and-answer session after the performance, Moayed described his preparation for this role. He conducted hours of character interviews with the writers, assuming the role of each character and answering questions about characters as minor as a street vendor with two lines. Moayed did not merely throw on the postures and habits of his characters. He inhabited those characters, finding nuances of agony that would have been lost in a less devoted actor's performance. In the final scene, when Amir watched his best friend leave forever as a result of his own dishonesty, Moayed's eyes were red and his voice ragged. When he finished the last sentence and bowed his head, there was a moment when the audience struggled to distance itself from the performance enough to clap.

editors' picks

09

The U.S. in  
Afghanistan  
R.A.J. House  
7:30 p.m.

In association with the Performing Arts Series presentation of *The Kite Runner*, the Rohatyn Center for International Affairs hosts a panel discussion with Middlebury College students from Afghanistan.

10

Dan Zane and  
Friends  
Higher Ground  
4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Dan Zanes makes homemade feel-good music for families and people of all ages. Zanes' musical roots date back to his early days with Del Fuegos, leading up to his most recent album "Catch That Train" for which he received the 2007 Grammy Award for Best Musical Album for Children.

11

Salome  
Palace 9 in  
Burlington  
1 p.m.

The Metropolitan Opera will broadcast its risqué production of Richard Strauss' expressionistic masterpiece, starring Finnish soprano Karita Mattila, who bares all of the vocal difficulties in addition to removing all of her clothes.

12

Method Man/  
Redman  
Higher Ground  
7:30 p.m.

Method Man was the first solo star to emerge from the Wu-Tang Clan. His mush-mouthed, sandpaper-rough bellow (at times recalling EPMD's Erick Sermon) and imaginative rhymes easily made him one of the most recognizable, unpredictable MCs in the group.



## THE REEL CRITIC

by Jason Gutierrez

MOVIE | *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*

DIRECTOR | Alex Holdridge

STARRING | Michael Cera and Kat Dennings

In 1989 a film called "The Wizard" was released in theaters. Starring Fred Savage and Christian Slater, the film had the most paper thin of plots in order to cover up the fact that the film's real purpose was to sell the then somewhat new Nintendo. "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" is kind of like "The Wizard," except instead of marketing Nintendo they're selling New York City music venues, local indie bands and a lifestyle to go along with it.

The film revolves around Nick (Michael Cera), the recently dumped heterosexual bassist in a queercore band, who meets music-loving Norah (the luminous

Kat Dennings) after a gig opening for Bishop Allen (who makes a brief cameo appearance). In an effort to pull Nick out of his malaise, his bandmates compel the pair to spend the night searching New York City for the secret gig of everybody's favorite band, Where's Fluffy. Norah's lush of a best friend, Caroline, complicates matters slightly, as the duo must eventually find her after she drunkenly wanders off into the New York night. Of course, Nick and Norah fall in love along the way, despite the best efforts of Nick's jealous ex to keep them apart. Normally I would mention something about a spoiler alert, but I can't imagine the end comes as a surprise to anyone.

"Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" couldn't possibly be more clichéd, predictable or uninteresting. To call it "slight" would be an insult to after school specials everywhere. I didn't walk into the theater expecting a revelatory experience in narrative filmmaking, but I was still shocked by the cookie-cutter nature of the story and forced quirkiness of the dialogue. If John Hughes hadn't made a single movie in the 1980s, then "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" might have been able to pull off the teenage romance. But John Hughes did make a few movies in the 1980s, and screenwriter Lorene Scafaria either hasn't seen them or refused to recognize that the film she was writing stole everything from John Hughes' films.

Perhaps I am being a little too hard on Ms. Scafaria. After all, her dialogue did manage to avoid the grating quality of another not-really-indie film, "Juno." Written by Diablo Cody, "Juno" had the high-quality dialogue that made me want to stab myself in the ear with a pencil. "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist," on the other hand, is a little bit more understated.

These teenagers only sound five years older than they are, not a decade, and that is a somewhat welcome change.

What prevents "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" from being an unmitigated disaster is the undeniable appeal of leads Michael Cera and Kat Dennings. They both possess a fantastic set of skills that allow them to stay afloat, even when the mind-numbing plot threatens to sink the ship. They deliver their lines, as terrible as they are at times, with a charm that allows the audience to hate the writer, not the actors. Neither actor has show-stopping good looks, but that only adds to their appeal. These are people I know — they just happened to get trapped in an aggressively mediocre movie, but I like them anyway. I should also mention director Peter Sollett, who makes the frequently filmed New York City seem vibrant and exciting again. This may seem trivial, but it's a quite impressive feat, and it's one more element to distract from the inanity that is going on in the plot.

There is plenty of blame to go around for "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist," but as much as I'd like to lay all of it at the feet of Ms. Scafaria, I can't. The real blame needs to be passed up to the suits at Columbia Pictures. Everything about the film feels clinically created to capture a new, young market. This isn't the organic product of a subculture, but is hipster culture chewed up and regurgitated by a corporate machine for the sole purpose of easy consumption by suburban teenagers. There is a fine line between representation of a lifestyle and the corporate sale of that lifestyle — "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" is a film that is on the wrong side of that line. It did make me start listening to Bishop Allen again — at least it has that going for it.



## for the record

by Melissa Marshall

When reaching for a paper topic at the eleventh hour or as bravado of intellectual sensitivity, women — despite post-lapsarian ideology — are saving graces. Guaranteed to lend a level of provocation without waging a revolution, the subject of gender theory not only drenches over-thumbed versions of early modern literature, but also fully wedges itself in the contemporary chaos of media culture — both scholarly and secularly. Pushing aside for a moment the ubiquitous bane of bikini-clad muchachas and the mixture of ho-hum with horrible housewives, the issue of gender has become newly politicized — literally. As we've all seen by the surprisingly sidesplitting SNL skit of "attractive" Sarah Palin and "cankled" Senator Clinton, the collective American mind has magnified its attention on the manipulation of and the manipulation by the fairer sex. However, I will leave the rest of the political commentary to the Opinions section — allowing my leanings to remain cloaked in Victorian modesty — and instead shamelessly bare my love of the low-fidelity Vivian Girls, three women who have commanded the attention of the industry stage and secured my vote as the most powerful female force of 2008.

At a shocking twenty-two minutes long, their self-titled virgin release shows that the Brooklyn trio remembered their mothers' advice to not give it all away on the first date. Based around rough production and rushed vocals, the album lends a sense of immediacy to a genre that is slowly suffocating under the languor of bashful boys with acoustic aesthetics. And while I adore the subdued strum of a high-pitched white boy as much as the next *Paste*-reading protester of plebeian pop, it's invigorating to hear a female vocalist released from the tinkling of a piano and untied from the chords of a synthesized keyboard.

Although refreshing in their breakneck percussion and shunning of the shoe-gazer trend, Cassie Ramone, Kickball Katy and Ali Koehler still steep themselves in the maze of contemporary culture. Deriving their name from the recently discovered 15,145 page fantasy opus and artwork of Chicago janitor Henry Darger, the Vivian Girls wedge themselves in the pop-referential tradition with Sufjan Stevens, John Ashbery, Neil Gaiman and Tilly and the Wall. Despite these connections — and critical comparisons with the foundational Velvet Underground as well as the genre and gender-bending Times New Viking — the trio knocks out the Ovidian metaphor of reflection and crafts a voice, albeit unintelligible, of their own.

Surprisingly unfocused on lyrics — many of the words are indistinguishable in their version of noise-pop — the band forces the listener to focus on the feel of the sound. And in a decade spearheaded by the lyrical magnificence of Conor Oberst and Jeff Magnum, a return to the subversive quality of sound can be just as poetic as the storytelling of Springsteen. Monotonous at times, the Vivian Girls compensate for lack of variation with urgency, heightened heartbeats and a concrete concentration on pure emotionality that translates to the listener not through lyrical connection, but through the tantric tapping of "Tell the World," the guttural guitar of "Damaged" and the relentless rhythm of "Never See Me Again." Somewhere under the frenzy of raw measures lies the universal groanings of love and loss, molding Vivian Girls as an endeavor of fierce female influence with a stripped emotional appeal that is wonderfully genderless.

As 2008 works its way to a close, the punch line to the year is not "lipstick." Rather, it's a return to musical creation that is unpolished, immediate and emotionally winding. And while the Vivian Girls position themselves as poster-children for the roar of female rock, they more importantly strengthen a movement towards energizing a genre that is suffering from acoustic depression.



Grace Duggan

### WOMEN IN ACTION

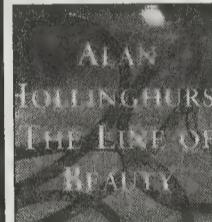
Last Friday, a crowd gathered in the Dance Theatre in the Mahaney Center for the Arts to watch a performance by the women of Compas de Nicaragua (Friends of Nicaragua), a non-profit organization that works to promote cross-cultural exchanges. The quartet of women, down to three because of an emergency that called one of them away, performed a range of traditional Nicaraguan dances while wearing beautiful multicolored dresses. The women mixed somber pieces with more upbeat ones, dancing sometimes as a trio and in solos as well. For one dance the emcee encouraged the audience to respond like Nicaraguan audiences, i.e. to applaud and cheer on the dancer during the performance.

Interwoven between the dances were segments designed to inform the audience about Nicaragua's culture, resources and socio-economic situation. The main project of Compas de Nicaragua formed five years ago. Called "Mujeres en Acción" (Women in Action), it is comprised of forty women working to improve living conditions in La Primavera, an impoverished neighborhood in Managua, Nicaragua. Their projects include a gourd art collective, soy food program and a community store. Additional information on Compas de Nicaragua and its projects can be found on their Web site, [www.compas1.org/](http://www.compas1.org/).

— Grace Duggan, Arts Editor

### Suggestion Box

From our bookshelves, iPods and laptops to your Thursday morning breakfast table, here are our recommendations for the best of recent culture. Click on, check out and press play on these favorites — because there is a world outside "the bubble."



**The Line of Beauty**  
Alan Hollinghurst (Bloomsbury, 2005)  
A Booker Prize winner, Hollinghurst's "The Line of Beauty" has the air of a classic while remaining enveloped with

contemporary wit. Harrowingly honest, the novel follows Nick Guest in 1980s London as he wrestles with issues of class, intellectual pursuit and one of the most sexually tumultuous times of the century.

— Melissa Marshall



**Nosferatu**  
F.W. Murnau (Silent, 1922)  
With Halloween approaching, why not brush up on some expressionist cinema? Murnau's now iconic adaptation of Bram

Stoker's *Dracula* is in no way dramatically deficient for its "silence." In every way it is creepier because of it. The most memorable feature of the film is the supernatural Count Orlok (i.e. Dracula), whose get-up is hauntingly rat-like.

— Andrew Throdahl



**In Ghost Colours**  
Cut Copy (Modular Interscope 2008)  
Irritating British spelling of "colors" aside, this Aussie band is a favorite in the office, especially Managing Editor Jack Lysohir '08.5. Recommended if you like MGMT, Daft Punk or Cansei de Ser Sexy.

— Grace Duggan

## Students direct: five new plays hit campus

Here are five creative young directors who have taken it upon themselves to realize their artistic conceptions in five upcoming all-student productions. The five plays range from the exploration of gender to the problems of philosophy to the palpable political climate, taking full advantage of student acting, production and technical talent. *The Campus* talked to these talented students about the drive and direction of their dedication to independent theatre.

— Melissa Marshall and Liya Gao



Courtesy

**Production:** "Comings and Goings"  
**Dates:** Nov. 13-15, Hepburn Zoo  
**Director:** Dawn Loveland '09  
**Tickets will be available through the College box office**

**The setup:** Megan Terry's "Comings and Goings" is a "theatre game" that explores various male/female relationships. The piece is a series of scenes between one man and one woman that transform directly from one to the next, where the characters and the circumstances constantly shift. The cast consists of three men and three women. During random points in the show, the actors will be called upon to enter the action and switch roles with another actor. The switches are determined on the spot, so there will never be the same performance twice.

**The attraction:** As a director, I was interested in working on a piece in a style that was completely foreign to me, yet allowed for so many dramatic opportunities. Also, this play lends itself to working with an ensemble of actors who all participate equally in the show. I love the sense of community that surrounds the process of creating this piece. We can do an improvisational exercise, and the actors will take it and turn it into an incredibly moving, funny or truthful scene. I love being able to work so collaboratively. And there are no restrictions in the text. The piece can be whatever we make of it.

**The impact:** This show brings a unique sense of playfulness, fun and experimentation to the stage. There is no plot, there is no main character, there is no saying exactly what is going to happen next. I have not seen another show during my time at Middlebury that allowed for the same freedom.



Grace Duggan

**Production:** "Dying City"  
**Dates:** Nov. 20-22, Hepburn Zoo  
**Director:** Maegan Mishico '08.5  
**Tickets will be available through the College box office**

**The setup:** Justine Katzenbach '08.5 and I are working together for our 700 project (I am directing and she is acting). We are producing "Dying City" by Christopher Shinn. Trying to not give everything away, the basic synopsis is a year after her husband dies during military tour in Iraq, a young woman is visited by his identical twin brother and forces both of them to explore social class, sex, intimacy, violence, the impact of 9/11, the hidden consequences of war and thus raises questions about the nature of public conscious and private grief.

**The attraction:** While researching possible thesis projects, Justine and I found that we wanted to work with a relevant, contemporary play that would impact the way our generation views the society around us (this play was first produced in 2005). "Dying City" forces the audience to confront their own beliefs about our world today, while still being an engaging and vibrant theatre experience.

**The impact:** The issues that these characters discuss are issues that you hear being talked about in dining halls or in classes. We hope that this play will contribute to a greater dialogue in the College community about the current state of American culture and beliefs.



Courtesy

**Production:** "Dusa, Fish, Stas & Vi"  
**Dates:** Dec. 4 & 5, Hepburn Zoo  
**Director:** Emily Feldman '09  
**Tickets will be available through the College box office**

**The setup:** Four women sharing a flat in London struggle to find happiness in a world riddled with obstacles and expectations. See how their contrasting personalities help and hinder their relationships with each other and with the men in their lives. Each has her own personal battle to fight, but all have a desperate need to find a place in the world as women and as individuals.

**The attraction:** Stephanie Spencer '09 and Lucy Faust '09 read several plays in their search for a 700 project. Faust read "Dusa, Fish, Stas and Vi" in a Contemporary Women Playwrights class with Cheryl Faraone and she had an "I've gotta do this play someday" moment with it. So then she gave it to Spencer to read. They love the language and the issues it deals with. It's set in the 1970s in London, and it's a very feminist play, but the issues are still pertinent to our culture today. It's been a very cool process to work with an all-female cast and a female director. We're also really enjoying all our research about feminism in the 1970s. It's so weird to see how far society has come in some respects, and how stagnant it's stayed in others.

**The impact:** It's a quirky play that explores the work-life balance that women of all generations grapple with. I think it will present issues that concern women on the College campus from a unique cultural lens!



Courtesy

**Production:** "Two Rooms"  
**Dates:** Nov. 6 - 8, Hepburn Zoo  
**Director:** Oscar Loyo '10  
**Tickets will be available through the College box office**

**The setup:** The piece is about political terrorism, the government and the media. In the play, a professor, Michael, is kidnapped in Beirut three years prior and the play chronicles his wife, Lainie. She tries desperately to get her husband back and is torn between how to act. The state department is urging her to stay quiet and let them do their jobs, while the media is encouraging her to go public with her search. The play focuses on Lainie and her struggle to make a decision.

**The attraction:** It's a timely piece that questions the motives of the government and the media, and whose intentions they are really looking out for. It's a play that makes a political statement and pulls at your heartstrings at the same time.

**The impact:** This is definitely a piece to make you think and question the environment around you. While the play takes place on the other side of the world and is set in the 80s, it presents a situation that is very relevant the world today.



Courtesy

**Production:** "On Ego"  
**Dates:** Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, Hepburn Zoo  
**Director:** Sara Swartzwelder '09  
**Tickets will be available through the College box office**

**The setup:** The piece, a thought experiment by Derek Parfit, takes up the question of personal identity. Does our idea of the self have the stability, the significance or even the existence that we experience it to have?

**The attraction:** The nature — the meaning and the existence of the self — is put into question through the medium of theatre, and the play does something that philosophy so often fails to do. It allows philosophical issues and questions to collide with real life.

**The impact:** It addresses the kinds of things we tend to abandon as soon as we leave the classroom (or even before) because they're too difficult to think about, to fathom, to apply or to try to reconcile with our reflexive, everyday sense of who and what we are. "On Ego" poses a question philosophers have pursued literally for millennia and, by planting it in the story of realistic, emotionally-charged characters, makes the answer easy to swallow.

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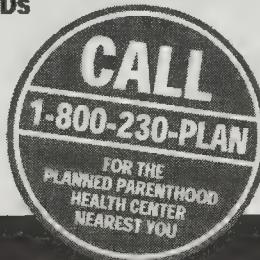
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# Seniors strengthen women's rugby program

By James Schwerdtman  
STAFF WRITER

The women's rugby team has been putting on a clinic on the pitch so far this season. This season has been something special to this point, as the Panthers have not yielded one point to their competitors so far. The team is led by a strong core of seniors, whose experience with the game and team chemistry has been central to its dominance to this point. The team was bolstered this fall with the return of many key players who had been abroad last spring, and are now showing how dearly they were missed.

"Never before in my memory has our A-side featured such a number of talented and experienced players," said Jackie Montagne '09. "Everyone tackles well, catches well, and

communicates effectively, which are some of the most fundamental but crucial skills in rugby."

The season began with a bang, and there have been no signs that it is letting up, as was apparent this past weekend. The team's first contest was against Colby-Sawyer, which suffered a 78-0 defeat at the hands of the Panthers. They matched this play with a 53-0 win over Smith College. The team's most recent match was against a tough Mt. Holyoke team but the Panthers dominated them too, 66-0.

"Mt. Holyoke came out to win," said Montagne, "and they certainly showed a lot of power in scrums and rucks."

Middlebury's game was centered around ball control, as they held possession for the majority of the game. This strategy, coupled

with the superior communication and overall team play, prevented Mt. Holyoke from mounting a serious defense. The forwards, led by Avery Rain '09, Alice Ford '09, and Amelia Magistrati '09 were crucial in gaining possession from every ruck, and the backs, especially Kristina Brown and the dependable Rachel Korschun '09, were very efficient at moving the ball up the pitch. Montagne also made a point of recognizing Ahn Lie '09, "our new winger, [who] has been outrunning teams with her speed down the sidelines. Their strategy of "focusing on how to calm our play down and make smart strategic decisions that other teams don't know how to react to," that Montagne described has obviously been paying off thus far. "We're currently at the top of our division and we're planning on staying

there," she said.

As the Panthers look to the spring, the confidence that has carried them so far this fall seems only to build. The team is currently fundraising to go to Ireland over Feb break, where they will play against European teams for the first time. There is a clear enthusiasm among the team for this trip, as it says on their Facebook group: "The Middlebury Women's Rugby Team is determined, nay, hell-bent, on getting ... some international bruises. The senior-heavy team is not expecting to lose a great deal of players who may go abroad, but as Montagne put it, "we have a plethora of talented athletes to choose from." If the team keeps up the play they have been showing they are capable of so far, there is nothing stopping them from being a force in the spring."



Ryan Scura

Under the backdrop of the Vermont landscape, women's rugby easily dismissed of Mt. Holyoke 66-0. Inset: Brittany McAdams '09 runs toward the center of the try-line for the Panthers.

## Middlebury finishes second, twice

By Sarah Bryan  
STAFF WRITER

The Middlebury cross country teams traveled to Castleton this past weekend to compete in their fourth race of the season. Both Panther teams came home with second-place team finishes in the State Meet, trailing closely behind the University of Vermont.

"Despite being the 'Vermont State Meet,' the race was actually very low key," said runner Stanis Moody '11. Both squads sat some runners out for this meet, mostly to rest injuries in preparation for their next race. "Losing to UVM was a disappointment as we had won this meet every year since 1986," continued Moody, "but seeing as we were racing without most of our varsity, we did okay."

As for the race itself, excitement permeated the course as multiple runners slipped at the end of a wet bridge, some of them emerging from the forest covered with mud and scraps. Regardless, the dirtied Panthers held their composure and finished strong.

The men's team raced 17 runners, five of

whom finished in the top ten. First-year Michael Schmidt '12 led the Panther pack, finishing second with a time of 27:08. Behind Schmidt lurked the Panther squad, with Peter Hoffman '10 finishing fifth (27:46) and Nat Nelson '11 (28:03), Moody (28:05) and Chris Free '10 (28:14) taking spots eight through 10. The team averaged a time of 27:51 for its 8k race and scored 34 points, second to UVM at 21.

The women's team also put forth an outstanding performance, finishing eight points behind UVM with a score of 39. Individually, the Panthers finished strong, with four girls in the top ten. First year Elise Moody '12 crossed the finish line second (18:52:4), only three tenths of a second behind St. Michael's runner Mary Lynn Denholm (18:52:1). Moody's classmate Cate Brown '12 (19:18) took fifth place, while Katlynn Saldanna '11 (19:42) finished ninth and Chelsea Ward-Waller '12 (19:43) came in tenth.

Both teams took Castleton as a practice meet, and not everyone on the squad participated. Coach Terry Aldrich's strategy behind sitting some runners is to get the team prepared

for next weekend's New England Championships. Annie Sullivan '10 and senior captain Charlotte Bemis '09 are nursing recent injuries back to health in hopes of returning quickly.

Nevertheless, those who did not run this weekend still went out to cheer on their fellow Panthers. Their reaction to their teammates' performances was anything but selfish, and exemplary to the team's overall positive dynamic.

"It was really uplifting to see my teammates finish with times that pleased them," said Sullivan, who has been resting due to a strained IT band. "Everyone that participated in Castleton ran a solid race, and I think they are happy with their performance."

"I tried to run my own race and it worked out the way I planned," said Hoffman, who finished fifth overall. "I feel that we're definitely prepared for the more competitive meets."

Both teams will stay on campus during fall break to compete in the Open New England, held in Boston, Mass. Over 40 teams will race in this one event, and many, if not all, of the top schools will be there to test the Panthers' strength.

fans as a whole (apart from the fact that the vast majority of them are bandwagon fans — know any Bruins fans? I'll bet you will if they make the NHL finals in the spring). Red Sox fans can be divided into two groups: pre-2004 and post-2004. The post-2004 fans became Red Sox fans when joining the Nation was the hip thing to do. They can be easily identified from the Pink and Green hats they usually wear.

The pre-2004 Sox fans are a whole different breed, though. They are diehards — this I will give them. However, they were miserable for so long that now that the Sox are good it's not enough that they win — no, everyone else around them has to be miserable too. Read any Boston-based sports blog after they win a series. The story isn't: Sox win again! But rather: Angels Blow it in Boston! A psychologist would call this an inferiority complex — I just call it lame.

So until I can trust that Boston sports fans will respect my teams as much as I respect theirs I will be forced to continue to root for the opposition. Damn, this Lester kid looks like he's going to be pretty good too.

## Bowdoin ends streak for Panthers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

fielder Maddie Kahn '11 said, "but we were definitely able to step it up in the second half."

The Panther offense is usually able to capitalize and score off of connecting passes in the circle, but Bowdoin's zone defense swarmed the attack and hindered the Panthers. Bowdoin decided to face guard Chase Delano '11 after she earned NESCAC Player of the Week honors just two weeks ago. Other strong offensive players include Sophie Thompson '09 and Heather McCormack '10, who have netted six and five goals, respectively, this season.

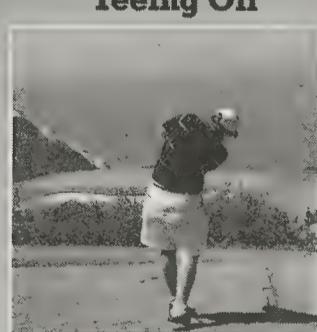
Down 2-0, Middlebury had several chances to take control of the game and both Mullery Doar '10 and Lindsay McBride '09 had two shots on goal. The Panthers' main obstacle was gaining control of the ball in the goal circle. Middlebury head coach Katharine DeLorenzo said that goals the Panthers have scored against other teams are not going to be scored against a really strong team like Bowdoin. So far this season, Bowdoin has surrendered only one goal.

"The team was fully prepared for this game and simply didn't execute," forward Logan Brown '11 said. "We played their game and didn't play ours."

The team is not pessimistic about the loss, though. Bowdoin coach Pearson predicts that the next time the two foes play, "Middlebury is going to be really motivated." The question is "Are the Panthers capable of beating Bowdoin?" Middlebury players and fans would obviously answer "yes", or as assistant coaches Heidi Howard and Reid Berrien often say "obv yes".

The Panthers are ready for revenge and the next opportunity will most likely be in early November in the NESCAC tournament. In the meantime, the Middlebury field hockey team will take on Tufts this Saturday, Oct. 11.

### Teeing Off



by Peter Baumann

Let me start out by saying that I would consider myself a pretty tolerant and open-minded sports fan. I have my teams, for sure, but I usually confine my time spent watching games to rooting for a certain team, rather than rooting against the other. This all changed after I moved to New England. After three years I am ready to say without remorse or inhibition that I actively root against Boston sports teams.

You know what the worst part is? I actu-

ally like most of the teams. Tom Brady might be one of my favorite players in the NFL. A hard-working, cerebral quarterback who is successful as much because of his mental preparation as his physical. Kevin Garnett is a hard-working superstar, a rarity in the glorified street-ball league that is today's NBA. And the Red Sox? What is there not to like? Between Dustin Pedroia diving for any ball within twenty feet and Big Papi smiling like some sort of Dominican Demon every time the Sox start a rally this team might be one of the easiest to root for in the entire league.

So why are Boston teams the only ones I actively cheer against? Easy, the fans. You know who I'm talking about. Every group has at least one "Masshole": that kid who walks up to you the day after your team loses to the Sox and proceeds to offer a profanity-laced explanation for why your team sucks (although to be fair, it is often difficult to tell the difference between "Sawx" and "Sucks," as in: "Dude! Matt Holliday sucks. Go Sawx!").

I've developed a theory when it comes to Red Sox fans that I think can apply to Boston



## INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM

Since the Middlebury volleyball team gained varsity status fifteen years ago, the program has grown in strength, becoming one of the top volleyball teams in the NESCAC in a relatively short time. Thanks in large part to the enthusiasm of its dedicated players, the team displays unity and energy on and off the court. While it may be that this harmony derives from the collective pain of having to wear humiliatingly small uniform shorts, one of the team's co-captains, Reisa Bloch '09.5, has no doubt played a substantial part in invigorating the Panthers' supply of spirit.

From spending her Friday nights on the road to volleyball tournaments to foregoing Fall Break plans in favor of matches against Colby-Sawyer and Tufts, Bloch is all about volleyball. As such, it comes as no surprise that the playing field was tipped in favor of teammate Molly Elmer-Dewitt '10 in this week's *Inside the Locker Room*.

For the first time in the history of the fall 2008 *Campus* — that is, in the past four issues — one competitor managed to score a perfect "seven". With over half her answers pertaining to volleyball, Bloch cleared the way for a definitive Elmer-Dewitt victo-

The Campus takes a timeout with Reisa Bloch '09.5			
	Reisa Bloch	Maggie O'Hara	Molly Elmer-Dewitt
What are your plans for Fall Break?	Beating Colby-Sawyer and Tufts.	Slaying the Jumbos (1)	Playing volleyball. What else? (1)
What is your favorite Spandex brand?	Adidas	Nike — Just Do It, baby. (0)	Adidas (1)
Atwater or Ross?	Atwater	Atty (1)	Current allegiance to Atwater (1)
How do you occupy yourself on long bus rides?	Watch a movie	Homework (0)	Watch movies, eat Carmelitas (1)
Best Thursday night show: Grey's Anatomy or The Office?	Grey's Anatomy	McDreamy's locks make her swoon (1)	Grey's (1)
How do you spend Friday nights?	On the road, playing volleyball	Lights out by 11pm sharp (0)	Playing volleyball, touring motels (1)
Who has the most team spirit?	I'm not afraid to say I have a lot.	Molly (0)	Reisa Bloch (1)
Final Score:		3	7

ry in an upset over suitemate Maggie O'Hara '09.5.

Still, O'Hara put forth a fight, demonstrating her thorough knowledge of Bloch's habits in those moments off the court —

however rare they may be — that the two spend together. Evincing an air of confidence from the start, O'Hara openly doubted her competition.

"Even Matt Bloch, who Reisa shared a

womb with for approximately nine months, would ultimately face defeat in this competition," she said. "We have lived together since our first semester at Middlebury, from lonely Ross singles to our now spacious Atwater suite; living more than 17 seconds away from each other has never been an option."

Another little-known item in O'Hara's arsenal of Bloch trivia? "Reisa's favorite tapa is Machego and chorizo, in case you were wondering."

Unfortunately for O'Hara, the fun facts came up short when confronted with Elmer-Dewitt's anthology of Blochisms. The key to glorious success was all in the spandex, as it turned out.

"It'll be a close call but I think it will come down to whoever knows my favorite brand of spandex," said Bloch. "Molly definitely has the advantage and I feel fairly confident that she knows the right answer. So, sorry Mags, but I think Molly might have this one."

In hindsight these turned out to be prophetic words, given Elmer-Dewitt's easy victory.

— Emma Gardner, Sports Editor

PANTHER SCOREBOARD				
Date	Sport	Vs.	Results	Comments
10/4	Field Hockey	Bowdoin	2-0 L	The number-two ranked Panthers fell to the number-one ranked Polar Bears for the team's first loss of the season.
10/4	Men's Soccer	Bowdoin	1-0 W	Middlebury claimed its second straight shutout with a second half goal from Tyler Macnee '12.
10/4-10/5	Women's Golf	Middlebury College Invitational	1st Place	Sophomores Jessica Bluestein '11 and Courtney Mazzei '11 led the Panthers to a home turf win at Ralph Myhre Golf Course.
10/4	Women's Soccer	Bowdoin	1-0 L	While the women outshot Bowdoin 20-5, at the end of the day the Polar Bears held Middlebury scoreless.
10/4	Football	Amherst	31-14 W	A strong, consistent defensive effort plus timely plays from the offense enabled Middlebury to move back over .500.

PANTHER BY THE NUMBERS	
22	Number of rushing yards gained by Amherst in Middlebury's 31-14 victory.
1	Place that the torrid Middlebury women's golf team finished in at the Middlebury Invitational this weekend, the team's second consecutive tournament win.
2	Place that Courtney Mazzei '11 and Jessica Bluestein '11 tied for at the invitational, out of 38 total participants.
2	Place the women's cross country team finished in at the State Meet at Castleton.
2	Place the men's cross country team finished in at the State Meet at Castleton.

### Editors' Picks



Guest editor of the week

Questions	Peter Baumann	Emma Gardner	Jeff Klein	Grace Duggan, Arts
Will the Middlebury volleyball team win its first home match of the year against Tufts on Sunday?	NO The women are having an impressive year, but the Jumbos' 16-1 record speaks for itself.	YES The Jumbos don't stand a chance against Reisa Bloch's '09.5 killer team spirit. Just read this week's Inside the Locker Room.	YES With Whitney Bean '10 setting a school record for blocks last week with nine block assists, the Panthers will be in a dominant frame of mind before the home crowd.	YES Tufts' mascot is an elephant; I have it on good authority that Panthers eat elephants for breakfast.
Will the Middlebury football team's defense hold Williams' offense to fewer than 350 total yards on Saturday?	NO The front seven will have to be in top form against Williams' huge O-line.	YES If I say no, my room will be torched.	NO Although Middlebury's defense has been strong, giving up 336 yards per game, the Ephs are averaging 378 yards per game. I'll play the numbers.	YES Keep the faith! We lost to them last year, but we prevailed over a Massachusetts school last week.
Who will win Saturday's college football showdown between #1 Oklahoma and #5 Texas?	OKLAHOMA Boomer Sooner! Boomer Sooner...	TEXAS Because what the hell is a Sooner? Please.	OKLAHOMA I know being the #1 ranked team in the nation hasn't exactly been a stable position recently, but the Sooners will win.	OKLAHOMA No offense to either team, but I'm more concerned about the Auburn-Arkansas game, and my money's on the Tigers.
Who will have more passing yards in week 6, Carson Palmer or his former USC backup, Matt Cassel?	MATT CASELL I'll go out on a limb and say he'll have more than Matt Leinart, too.	MATT CASSEL I'm not a huge fan of Palmer's beard.	CARSON PALMER Maybe the Bengals will even win a game.	CARSON PALMER According to Wikipedia.org, he's taller. Hot.
Who will win the World Series?	RAYS Just because I refuse to pick the Sox. Rayoffs '08!	RAYS Definitely not the Red Sox.	RAYS I don't want to bet against Torre's club, but the Rays will come out of their storybook season on top.	RAYS I'm a native New Yorker. I hate any team that ends in "Sox".
Career Record	65-49 (.570)	10-9 (.526)	34-36 (.486)	10-10 (.500)

## Men take out Bowdoin in Brunswick, still undefeated

By Kevin Carpenter  
STAFF WRITER

The Bowdoin Polar Bears proved more like frightened cubs in their 1-0 loss to the Panthers last Saturday, Oct. 4.

The Panthers extended their unbeaten streak — now standing at 5-0-1 overall — and booked another shutout for keeper Brian Bush '09, who now has four on the season. This win marked the first time in 13 years that the team has won in Brunswick, Maine.

### MEN'S SOCCER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Middlebury	1
Bowdoin	0

Although Middlebury dominated play, the scoring did not come so easily.

"The first half was good for us," said tri-captain Allen Bourdon '08.5. "The tempo was pretty high and we had the majority of possession and chances."

In the first half, both Bowdoin and Middlebury had several chances with five shots apiece, yet both teams were held scoreless. The Panthers' defense was key in stopping any Bowdoin attack.

"We did a pretty good job of handling their speedy forwards," said Bourdon, "and we were pretty dominant across the midfield and up front."

Both teams' first-year forwards were lethal up front. Middlebury's Tyler Macnee '12 racked up three shots in the game and Bowdoin's Eddie Jones had four shots on goal. But in the first half, defense was paramount.

"The game plan going into the second half was exactly the same — play our game," says Bourdon. "If we just kept playing our game and bring a little more intensity then a goal was basically inevitable." The tri-captain and his team were quick to deliver after the break.

The game's only goal came early in the second half from Macnee.

After a carry down Bowdoin's side and a cut-back, Macnee ripped a shot that buzzed by the keeper in the lower left corner to give Middlebury the lead and, ultimately, the win.

Macnee leads the team with an impressive five goals on the season. He has been the trigger of the Panthers' offense.

The second half saw more Panther-dominated play.

"For the most part, the team held possession well and was able to create a fair amount of chances," said Bourdon.

Ball movement was contained and fluid through the middle with outstanding

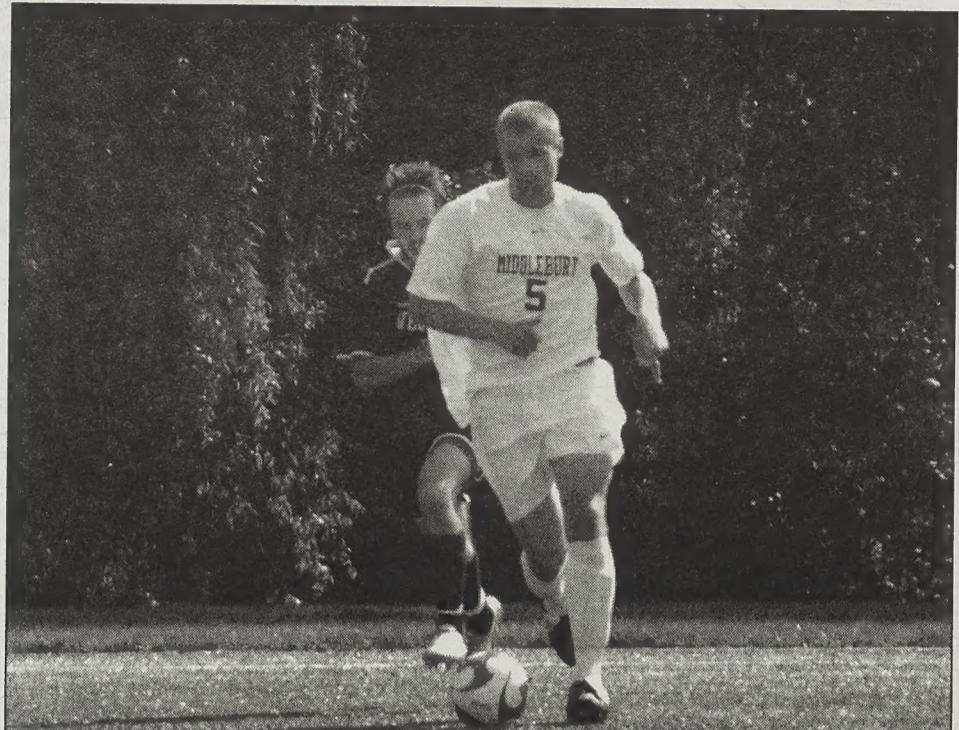
play from tri-captain Baer Fisher '09 and Carson Cornbrooks '11.

In the backfield, solid performances came from Colin Nangle '10 and especially Corey Moffat '09, despite being sick, commented Bourdon.

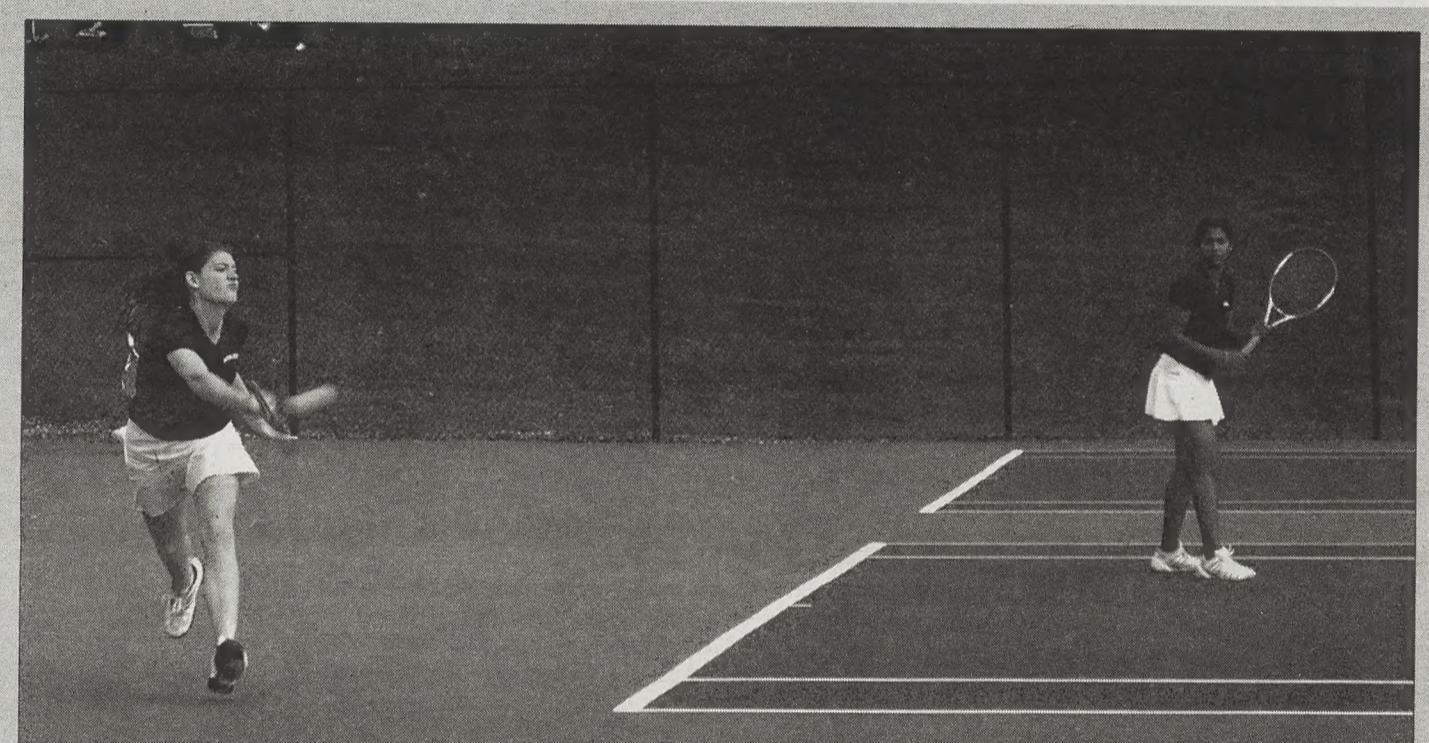
The only true scare for Middlebury came with five minutes to play when Bowdoin's Eddie Jones nailed a shot to the lower left corner. The shot mirrored Macnee's goal and seemed like a sure thing. But Bush would save the day again with a diving stop, preserving the win.

The win places Middlebury atop the NESCAC conference and fourth in national polls. Approaching the halfway mark of the season, Middlebury has proven themselves to be a worthy contender to defend their NESCAC and National championships.

The Panther's match Tuesday, Oct. 7 against Trinity marks the half way point in the season and will likely be their toughest challenge yet. But with young talent and hardened, experienced players, the rest of the season is looking bright.



Kate Fisher



Meaghan Brown

### MIDDLEBURY HONORS ASSISTANT COACH WITH TOURNAMENT.

This past weekend the women's tennis team competed in the second annual Gail Smith Doubles tournament on the Proctor courts. Gail Smith, who is retiring next year, has been a part of the Middlebury community for 29 years, serving as the assistant women's tennis and lacrosse coach from 1977-1983, the head women's tennis coach and track and field coach from 1983-1987 and coaching both men's and women's tennis from 1987-2000. Because it was not an official tournament, the Panthers used the weekend to try new things on the court. "This tournament gave us an opportunity to try different combinations and gain confidence with new pairings," said co-captain Elizabeth Stone '09. "Doubles teams that work balance their playing styles and have great chemistry; I think we are one step closer to finding those duos." Some highlights for the Panthers were Stone and partner Elizabeth Emery '09 advancing in their bracket, and the pairing of Victoria Aiello '12 and Anna Burke '12 playing their way into the quarterfinals.

Alex Lovett-Woodsum, Staff Writer and Peter Baumann, Sports Editor

## Olson to compete against best in country

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

last fall because of rib and wrist injuries and not being here last spring, it felt great to win the biggest tournament in the fall and become the champion of the region. I worked extremely hard this summer on my game and have worked hard on my conditioning and quickness this fall, especially at the 6 a.m. morning workouts that we have twice a week on top of everyday two and a half hour practices."

Olson's first-place finish has earned him the right to compete in the National Division III tournament in Mobile, Ala., which runs from Thursday, Oct. 16 to Saturday, Oct. 18.

The tournament rounds up the seven other winners from their specific regions around the country. The winner of this tournament will become the top-ranked Division III player in the country — the national champion. The winner will then have the right to compete against the winner of the Division II tournament; the winner of that gets invited to compete in the national

Division I individuals' tournament, hosted by University of Virginia in November.

So it is safe to say that there is a lot on the line for Olson beginning next week. But there is no question that he is up to the challenge.

"I feel quite confident going into the tournament," he said. "Winning six matches in three days against the best players in the region gives you a ton of confidence."

Appropriately, he also feels some nervous excitement as he prepares to hit the big stage.

"I do feel nervous because I have never participated

in this tournament before and I know that I will be facing some of my toughest rivals there," he admitted. "I also feel nervous because I have high expectations for myself and hope to win the tournament and don't want to fail."

But at the same time, Olson is keeping everything in perspective, enjoying the ride as he goes along.

"I also feel relaxed," he said, "because winning the regional and getting to go down south to Alabama and compete in a wonderful event like this one is such a privilege. You just have to enjoy the moment and

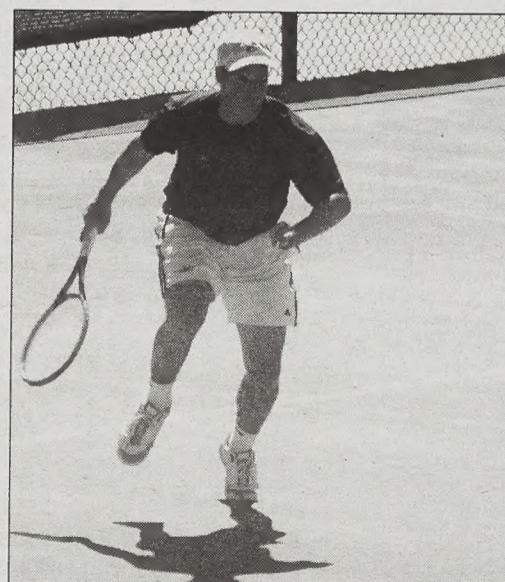
not put too much pressure on yourself."

In terms of strategy, Olson articulated a few specific goals that he believes will give him success.

"I will need to keep holding my ground on the baseline and take away the ball early to take away my opponent's time," he said. "This prevents him from having enough time to be aggressive. I will also need to continue hitting a high percentage of first serves, hitting the ball deep and heavy cross court and when I get the short ball, putting it away for a winner." Like in any athletic competition, staying mentally strong is also crucial, which Olson acknowledged.

"Most importantly, I need to stay calm and focused," he said. "Staying calm and focused were key to me winning the ITA Regional last weekend." The bottom line is that Olson is "feeling extremely excited at the prospect of possibly returning to Middlebury as the number one player in the country."

If the ITA regional was any indication, that prospect has a good chance of becoming a reality.



File Photo/Chris Heinrich

Conrad Olson '09 will face some of the best tennis players in the country in Mobile, Ala.

# Football moves back over .500

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

that "we really unleashed a beast in the end of the game — that's how you win the big games."

Middlebury led an exhausting 16-play drive that took over nine minutes off the clock in the final quarter and culminated in Anthony Kuchan's '11 first career field goal, which put the final nail in Amherst's coffin.

## FOOTBALL

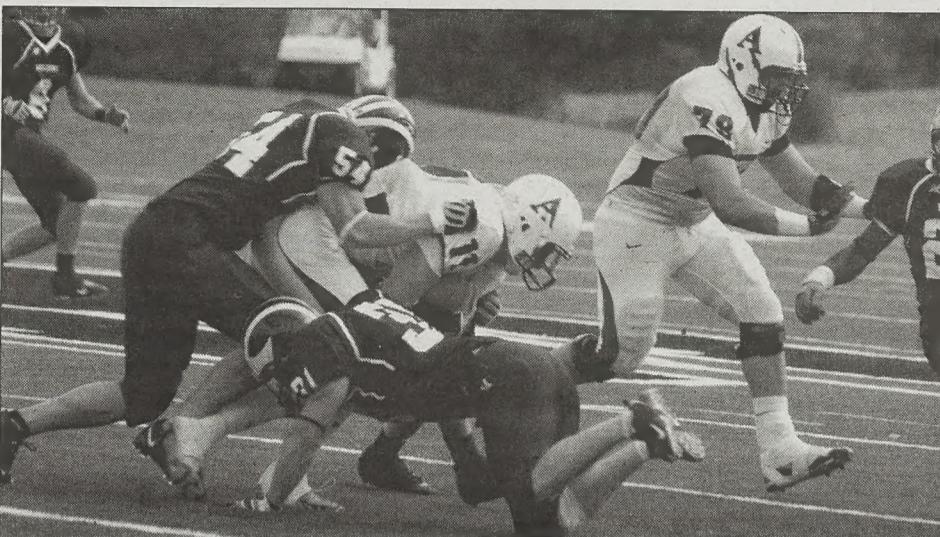
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

Middlebury	31
Williams	14

Holding the Lord Jeffs to a mere 22 yards rushing, combined with McKillop's 200-plus yards passing, Middlebury's offensive and defensive fundamentals continue to look strong as the team heads into the fourth week of its 2008 campaign.

But with a 2-1 record, the change in momentum for the Panthers from a big home win could not come at a better time, as they prepare for what should be a challenging away game next weekend at Williams College in the dark heart of western Massachusetts.

In light of Saturday's impressive play, the Panthers have proven that they can rise to the challenge when the situation presents itself — but it will take even more to put back-to-back wins together for the first time this season.



Ali Needham

Brian Marcks '09 and Tim Song '09 helped lead a resurgent Panther defense against Amherst.

## Bluestein '11, Mazzei '11 lead Panthers to victory

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

ficult shots. "The course was playing long because it was so wet," captain Julie Ellenberger '09 commented. "It was much tougher on Saturday than it was on Sunday."

Higher scores on Saturday can also be attributed to the football game that took place right next to the golf course. The golf-

ers were setting their tees on the first hole just as Matt Eberhart kicked off for Amherst. Whistles and loud cheers carried over to the course, serving as a major distraction as the golfers started their first eighteen.

However, even with the tough conditions on Saturday, the women were able to pull out the win. They had some impressive performances and key shots throughout the tournament. On the fifth hole, Flora Weeks '12 was able to pull out a difficult shot. She hit the ball from a tough lie in the rough and landed it on the green.

Coach Bill Beaney seemed happy with the way his team played, but stressed how important it is for it to continue to improve.

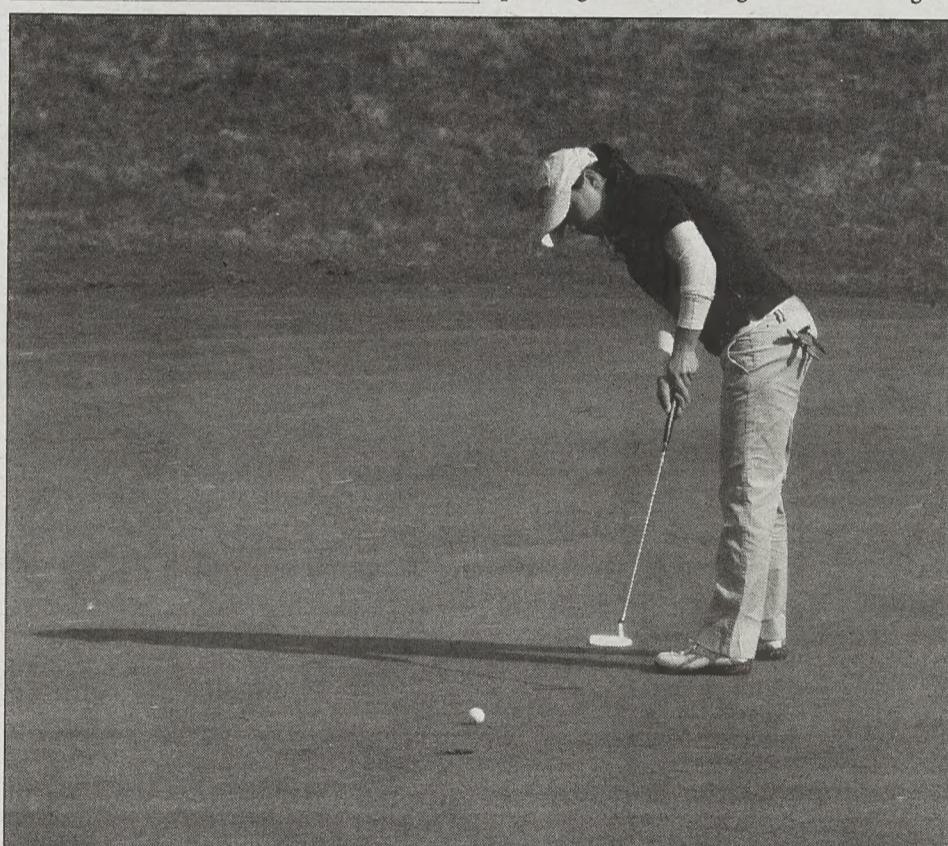
"We have seen improvement since the beginning of the fall," he said, "and our goal is to continue that throughout the season."

After the tournament, as the five girls stood together to pose for a celebratory picture, it was clear what a tight bond they share.

"Even though we come from different parts of the country, we have formed a strong bond that has enabled us to overcome adversity with a shared mutual respect," said Liz Hirsch '11.

The Panthers' spirits were extremely high as they walked away from the tournament with plaque in hand this weekend. Next weekend they will travel to Williams for their final tournament of the year. The team is prepared for a tough tournament, but after this weekend they are extremely confident.

"Our goal is to replicate our success next weekend at Williams," Mazzei said. "We want to culminate our season with three wins in a row."



Liz Hirsch '11 strokes a putt into the cup at the Middlebury Invitational this past weekend.

## The Middlebury Great Eight

Rank	10/2	Team	Panzer Postulates
1	2	Golf	So hot right now. Women took the Panther Invitational and coach Bill Beaney was named conference coach of the year.
2	7	Football (2-1)	In what many considered a must-win game, Middlebury stepped up and outplayed the Jeffs.
3	3	Men's Soccer (5-0-1)	Three teams traveled to Bowdoin this weekend; one returned victorious. Hint: it wasn't either of the two teams at the bottom of this list.
4	5	Cross Country	The good: both the men and women placed second at the State Meet, losing only to UVM. The bad: if they lost to UVM, who did they beat?
5	N/A	Tennis	Women continued the success started by Conrad Olson '09.
6	8	Volleyball (6-6)	Whitney Bean '11 set a new school record with nine blocks, but the ladies lost in five sets to Skidmore.
7	6	Women's Soccer (3-4-2)	The unbeaten streak finally ends with a tough loss at Bowdoin.
8	1	Field Hockey (6-1)	Golf on top, field hockey on bottom! The sky is not falling, but a 2-0 loss to "numero uno" in the country makes field hockey the biggest weekly loser.

Alex Lin-Moore  
With the women's victory at the Panther Invitational, Middlebury golf takes over the top spot in the Great Eight.

## sportsbriefs

### Rookie Matt Rayner '12 gets Player of the Week in win

Middlebury athletes are making a habit of grabbing NESCAC Player of the Week honors.

The latest sportsman with an outstanding week was rookie wide receiver Matt Rayner '12, who was named NESCAC Special Teams Player of the Week after his impressive performance against Amherst this past Saturday.

The play that vaulted Rayner to this achievement came in the second quarter of a deadlocked 7-7 game. After Middlebury tied the score with a 27-yard touchdown, the defense held and Amherst was forced to punt deep in its own territory.

As the Amherst punter went into his motion and prepared to kick, Andrew Matson '09 sprawled out almost parallel to the ground and blocked the kick, springing the ball loose. Rayner alertly grabbed the pigskin and ran it 18 yards before diving into the end zone, giving the Panthers a lead it would never relinquish.

Middlebury remained in charge for the remainder of the game and won 31-14, boosting its record above the .500 mark.

The Panthers travel to Williamstown, Mass. this Saturday, Oct. 11 for a big game against Williams College.

— Jeff Klein, Sports Editor

### Middlebury Equestrian Club to host competition

As students flee the campus this weekend in search of various Fall Break pursuits, the Middlebury Equestrian Club will be busy gearing up to host its annual horse show on Oct. 12. The competition is held at the Equestry, a riding facility in New Haven, Vt., the home of the College's equestrian team. The team will be joined by other Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Zone 1, Region 2 schools, including Dartmouth, Colby-Sawyer, Bates, UVM, Mt. Ida, and UNH, as the riders compete in jumping and flat class trials.

"Our region has only six shows over four weekends, so every show is a major event," said rider Ruthie Reinken '10.

Under the tutelage of Coach Kate Selby, the team returns this fall without star rider Ptarmigan Abbott '08, who graduated last spring after winning the High Point award at the annual UNH meet. While Abbott left large boots to fill, the team looks forward to another competitive season under the leadership of co-captains Thea Morrison '10.5 and Kelsey Johnson '09.

The Middlebury horse show takes place all day this Sunday, and those students staying on campus are encouraged to attend and support a hardworking team of riders.

— Emma Gardner, Sports Editor

### Baseball team hosts successful Fall Family golf outing

Last weekend, the Middlebury baseball team further expanded the events open to Middlebury students and their families by hosting the first annual Family Weekend Golf Outing.

The event, which serves as a fundraiser for the team, featured foursomes comprised mainly of father/son and father/daughter teams.

For all concerned the outing was a smashing success. Not only was the day beautiful and the golf fun, but the event raised several thousand dollars to help offset the costs of the team's annual trip to Arizona during Spring Break.

Nick Angstman '11 and his father Paul took the top prize, while Rob Palladino '09 won the long-drive contest with his bomb off the first tee. In events that practically demand an audit, Denny Smith, son of Middlebury baseball coach and outing organizer Bob Smith, took home the prize for closest to the pin.

— Peter Baumann, Sports Editor



Andrew Matson '09 (73 receiving yards on the day) lays out for a ball in Middlebury's game against Amherst.

## Matson '09 rights the ship

By Nick Martell  
STAFF WRITER

Although opening with a shaky start for the second straight week, the Middlebury football team fought through Saturday's home matchup against Amherst College, beating the Lord Jeffs 31-14 and avenging last week's debilitating loss to Colby.

As in the previous two games, the Panthers failed to score first,



Allie Needham  
Matt Rayner '12 (#6) celebrates with teammates after his score.

## Conrad Olson '09 set to hit the national stage

By Jeff Klein  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Division III tennis world will soon have a new national champion. That national champion could very well be a Panther.

Yes, Conrad Olson '09 has the potential to do great things next week, but first, backtrack two weekends.

Olson and the Middlebury men's tennis team competed in the ITA NESAC Regional, a three-day tournament hosted by Williams. The singles draw included 64 players from 20 different colleges from the Northeast, largely comprised of other NESAC schools, while the doubles draw was made up of 32 teams from those 20 different

as Amherst opened up a 7-0 lead. Eric Rostad '10 responded eight minutes after the Lord Jeffs' touchdown on a 27-yard reception from Donald McKillop '11 that tied up the game midway through the second quarter.

Momentum fully shifted right after Amherst followed with a failed drive. A sprawling Andrew Matson '09 blocked the Lord Jeffs' ensuing punt that was snagged by Matt Rayner '11, who dove into the end zone with minutes left in the first half.

"Not only did that change the game, but it simply made me proud — I love watching hard work pay off in real time," said an emotional Tim Monaghan '10 following the victory.

After a series of turnovers, one of which was recovered by Mike Quinn '09 in the third, Middlebury added two touchdowns early in the second half.

Spurred on by a large Youngman Stadium crowd, an overwhelming entourage of families and the strong smell of tailgate wafting from the parking lot, the

Panthers defense pounced on the tired Lord Jeffs, mercilessly driving their offense into the ground by not allowing a single point in the second half.

"We were strong on defensive play the whole game," said linebacker Eric Kamback '10, adding

SEE FOOTBALL MOVES, PAGE 23

## Women's golf finishes first again

By Kyle Goodenough  
STAFF WRITER

The women's golf team hosted seven schools on its home turf this past weekend for the third annual Middlebury Invitational tourna-



Alex Lin-Moore  
Flora Weeks '12 finished sixth at the two-day event.

ment. The women were especially excited about the opportunity to play at home this year because they didn't have the chance to play on the Ralph Myhre Course last year. The men's invitational fell on the same weekend and the women

moved to a course in Brandon instead. This year, with high hopes and expectations, the Panthers took advantage of playing on their own course and finished first overall with a two-day total score of 648. They pummeled their competition, beating them by an astonishing 19 strokes.

Courtney Mazzei

'11, who has continuously performed well this year, shot a two-day total of 159 (77-82). Jesse Bluestein '11 fired an 83-76 on the weekend, improving by seven on the second day of play and tying Mazzei's score. Both golfers posted an impressive second-place finish.

"We were really excited to have the home advantage this weekend," Bluestein said. "We set a goal at the beginning of the week to play better as a team and win more tournaments. I'm really proud we were able to do that."

The Panthers saw a significant improvement in their game on Sunday. After a rain-filled week, tough conditions set the pace of play on Saturday. A wet and soggy course meant slow greens and dif-

SEE BLUESTEIN, PAGE 23

## Bullpen catcher of the week:

*The Campus* highlights a Middlebury athlete whose contribution was vital to the game but did not necessarily show up in the box score. "Bullpen Catcher of the Week" honors those whose efforts go unnoticed to all except their teammates and coaches.

### Football: Ryan Bohling '10

The inaugural recipient of the award is Ryan Bohling '10. With a little over five minutes left in the first half of the football game this weekend, Middlebury found itself tied with the Lord Jeffs of Amherst 7-7.

Having just been forced into a three-and-out, the Lord Jeffs lined up to punt from their own 14-yard line. Captain and wide-receiver Andrew Matson '09

lined up on the left side of the line with Matt Rayner '12 directly to his right and Bohling inside of him. At the snap, Bohling took off up field and, rather than trying to block the kick, occupied two of the Amherst blockers. Free of his blockers, Matson flew free around the edge and stuffed the punt before it even left the kicker's shoe. Rayner picked up the ball and ran untouched for a

Panther touchdown to make the score 14-7.

Middlebury never looked back, outscoring the Lord Jeffs 17-7 the rest of the contest. While Matson and Rayner received the accolades they deserved for the block and score, without Bohling tying up two Lord Jeffs, the stage never would have been set for this game-changing play.

— Peter Baumann, Sports Editor

### this week in sports

**Men's soccer**  
Team extends unbeaten streak in Brunswick, page 21.



**games to watch**  
Men's soccer vs. Trinity, Oct. 11 at 3:30 p.m.  
Volleyball vs. Tufts, Oct. 12 at 2:00 p.m.



**Women's rugby**  
The team remains undefeated, shuts out Mt. Holyoke, Page 20.